**Hazards:** MSI injuries, slips, trips, fall

**Equipment:** N/A

**Personal protective equipment:**

Workers involved in activities around helicopters should use appropriate personal protective equipment including;

* High visibility apparel
* Hearing protection
* Eye protection
* Dust mask as required

**Training required:**

* On the job training - Safety talk as per guide and/or helicopter pilot

**Legal requirements:**

* Part 8 of the OH&S Regulation – Personal Protective equipment
* Part 29 of the OH&S Regulation – Aircraft Operation

## Safe Work Procedure

Always plan the duties when loading and unloading a helicopter. Who will communicate with the pilot? Who will hold the door? Who will carry which items? How will the items be carried? This helps prevent confusion and accidents, as it is very noisy and windy around a helicopter with its rotors turning.

**Bundling Skis:**

**Powder straps**

* Twist both straps together in the same direction around both skis between toe and heel of binding
* Drag skis by tips

**With wrist straps**

* One strap on each ski tip (not two on one)
* Twist strap together up tight
* Place Velcro ski strap (fuzzy side out) between toe and heel bindings through buckle and over itself on Velcro
* This must be tight for loading & unloading
* Drag skis at all times (grasp by the tips)

**Without wrist straps**

* Turn poles upside down nesting one basket on each side of skis in valley between tips
* Use 2 straps: One up near the ski tips and second between toe and heel of binding

**Loading Equipment**

1. Pack a landing pad to use as a work site.

2. Stack the skis in pairs beside the landing pad.

3. Knock excess snow off skis before stacking them.

4. Shut the helicopter rotors down before loading.

5. Do not lift skis above your head around the helicopter.

6. Ensure there is no loose clothing, plastic bags, or other debris that can get sucked into the engine air intake port.

7. Lock the ski box open with its locking mechanism.

8. Lift one pair of skis at a time into the helicopter ski box to reduce lifted weight.

9. Use proper lifting techniques.

10. Shut and lock the box with caution.

**Un-loading Equipment**

* The guide will open and close the ski basket
* Keep visual contact with your helper at all times
* Ensure you have stable footing
* Unload the skis or snowboards, with one person holding the tips, while the other person holds the tails
* Using proper lifting techniques, lift bundled skis out of basket while ensuring the skis remain horizontal to prevent the possibility of the skis lifting into the rotor