



Dutch care organisation provides all resident rooms with ceiling hoists

SVRZ, a care organisation for the elderly in the Netherlands, has equipped all 1.450 resident rooms with ceiling hoist systems. What started with the construction of the new care facility Redoute in Sas van Gent culminated in a huge project in which all SVRZ employees and clients would experience the benefits of a ceiling hoist system.

While planning for the Redoute building, it was decided to install ceiling hoist systems. Like the rest of the Netherlands, SVRZ must contend with a tight labour market, physical strain on care staff and time pressure to provide the best care. They have been looking for solutions to retain staff, make the work less stressful and create more time for care. Ceiling hoist systems contribute to these goals, and the new Redoute building was the first place to implement this. SVRZ was soon convinced that the advantages of ceiling hoist systems for employees and clients at the Redoute should also apply to all other SVRZ facilities, employees, and clients. To investigate this, a working group was formed to look at how this could be realised in all the existing buildings and how the installations of ceiling hoists would cause as little inconvenience to the clients as possible.

„We asked the staff what they wanted, and in the beginning, it was not everyone who was convinced“, says Angela Bras – SVRZ Board of Directors – „but because we saw so many advantages we went ahead, and the reactions are now very good“.

Good implementation is important in projects like this. This consists, on the one hand, of proper planning and execution of the installation of rails and lifting modules and, on the other hand, of proper training and instruction.

The planning and execution were particularly important in this project because all the ceiling hoist systems were installed in existing buildings. This means, above all, ensuring that there was as little inconvenience as possible for care workers and residents. Through good planning, consultation and agreements, the inconvenience for the care workers and residents was kept to a minimum. In fact, most of the residents enjoyed having the technicians around.

The advantage of good planning is that you can be flexible if necessary. „We had an urgent placement of a resident at the Maxima location, but the installation at Maxima was planned for later,“ says Christa Ettema, housing project manager at SVRZ,

„however, after careful consideration with the people from Ergocare we decided that we would install a ceiling hoist system in one of the rooms at Maxima. That flexibility is very nice!“.

At SVRZ they were used to working with mobile lifters. Working with ceiling hoist systems is faster, easier, safer, and more comfortable. All SVRZ employees have been trained by Ergocare to experience the full scope of these advantages, to use the ceiling hoist system safely and to learn all about the many possibilities. In small groups, theory and practice were brought together and everyone went home with a certificate.

And how is it going with the ceiling hoist systems?

It is a huge success for SVRZ. A survey carried out by Locomotion (on behalf of Gezond & Zeker) shows that care workers give the ceiling hoist system an average rating of 9. That is exceptionally high. The care workers also experience much fewer back (-18%), neck, shoulder, and arm (-26%) and knee (-42%) complaints. Here you can read more about all the effects of using ceiling hoist systems.



Report Abstract

The effects of using ceiling hoist systems are very positive

Many care organisations in the Netherlands already work with ceiling hoist systems and experience the advantages of these lifting aids every day: reduced physical strain, faster than with a mobile lifter, more comfort for the resident, safer transfers and use for transfers within the bed. Over the past two years, we have installed more than 1450 ceiling hoist systems at SVRZ, a care organisation for the elderly in Zeeland. At SVRZ, Gezond & Zeker conducted a study on the effects of ceiling hoist systems, and the results were very positive.

The implementation of the ceiling hoist systems has a positive effect on the physical load on the carers, results in significant time savings, reduces physical complaints and makes work less tiring.

Physical load of carers

SVRZ used to work with mobile lifters to move non-self-sufficient residents from, for example, bed to wheelchair or from wheelchair to toilet/shower chair. The mobile lifters have some disadvantages: manoeuvring (in tight spaces) is heavy duty and the comfort for the residents is not always optimal. Now that the mobile lifters have been replaced by ceiling hoist systems, movements are lighter and smoother and take up much less space.

And it is precisely these benefits that have been researched. It turns out that physical complaints decrease. Back pain reduced by 18%, neck, shoulder, and arm pain by 26% and knee pain by 42%.

These effects are extremely important, because nationally about one third of absenteeism in the health sector is due to this type of complaint.

As the physical effort is much less, carers are much less tired after their working day.

More time for care with ceiling hoist systems

The study also shows that the time needed for a transfer is significantly reduced with a ceiling hoist system. A transfer is shortened by 60 - 120 seconds. Surveys of other customers show that this saving is much higher (more than four minutes on average).

The time saved is partly because the ceiling hoist system is always present and charged, so there is no need to search for a mobile lifter, there is no need to wait for colleagues, and the transfer itself can be quicker because there is nothing standing between the resident and the carer. Time saved in passive transfers can be used to pay more attention to the client and focus on even safer and healthier work or to perform other tasks that could not be performed before (so-called "care left undone").

Even more advantages of ceiling hoist systems

A major advantage for carers is that the ceiling hoist systems provide very good support when moving around in bed and when performing activities of daily living (ADL). For example, the ceiling hoist system is used for lifting a leg, swivelling in bed and balance exercises. By using these lifting slings and other aids, the static load is also greatly reduced, and the ceiling hoist system becomes a ceiling care system.

How does the care sector experience ceiling hoist systems?

Ultimately, ceiling hoist systems are used to provide the best possible support for care. The carers experience many benefits from the hoist systems. They are exceptionally satisfied with the ceiling hoist systems and give the unique score of 9 for the ceiling hoist systems. Residents also feel safe in the ceiling hoist system. "There is no need to be afraid", said Ms de Kok.

The full research carried out by Locomotion on behalf of Regioplus in the context of Healthy & Secure can be found here:

[Download the research report here](#)

What other advantages do ceiling hoist systems have?

Carers and clients therefore experience that ceiling hoist systems are safer, more comfortable, and faster, and that physical complaints are reduced. In addition to these advantages for the carers and clients, ceiling hoist systems are often cheaper than mobile lifters and fit perfectly in new and existing buildings.

