



Operating and Product Care Instructions

Introduction

© Nibotechnics

Nibotechnics products are patented or patent pending. Patent information is available by contacting Nibotechnics.

The policy of Nibotechnics is one of continuous development and we therefore reserve the right to make technical alterations without notice. The content of this publication may not be copied either whole or in part without the consent of Nibotechnics.

This product and its accessories have been manufactured by :

Nibotechnics nv, Heikant 5, B-3930 Hamont-Achel, Belgium

'Otter' is a registered trademark of Nibotechnics.

Foreword

Thank you for purchasing Nibotechnics equipment.

Your Otter is one of a series of quality products designed especially for hospitals, nursing homes and other health care environments.

Please contact your local Nibotechnics representative or dealer if you have any questions about the operation or maintenance of your equipment (the telephone number appears on the last page of this manual).

All references to 'the resident' in these instructions refer to the person being lifted, and references to 'the caregiver' refer to the person who operates the Otter.

References to left and right of the lift in these instructions are as viewed when you are standing at the rear of the Otter, facing forward, (as viewed from the caregiver's pushing position).

Lifting operations in these instructions are described as if lifting a resident from a chair. The same operations can be performed effectively when lifting a resident from a wheelchair or sitting position on a bed, although a second caregiver should support the resident if the resident lacks sitting balance.

Operational Life

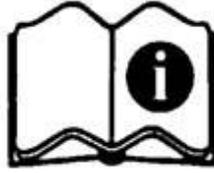
The operational life of the Otter is dependent on the actual use conditions. Therefore, before use, always make sure that the lift is safe to use and has not been damaged (see Preventive Maintenance Schedule at the end of this document for details). If any damage should be observed, do not use the Otter.

Contents

SECTION

1. Safety instructions	4
1.1 Intended use	4
1.2 Operational life	4
1.3 General safety instructions	5
2. Product description / function	6
2.1 Parts referred to in this manual	6
3. Using your Otter	7
3.1 Preparation	7
3.2 To transfer the resident to the water	8
3.3 To remove the Otter from the poolside	9
4. Care of your Otter	10
4.1 Environmental advice	10
5. Technical specifications	11
8.1 Component weights	11
8.2 Dimensions	11
6. Preventive maintenance schedule	13

1. Safety instructions



READ BEFORE USE

Before using your Otter, familiarize yourself with the various parts and controls as illustrated in this document. Read this whole manual thoroughly before operating your Otter in order to prevent injury or damage to the product.

Definitions used in these instructions:

WARNING

Means: Failure to follow these instructions may result in injury to yourself or to others.

CAUTION

Means: Failure to follow these instructions may cause damage to the products.

1.1 Intended use

The Otter is a small, mobile pool lift. It is a flexible, comfortable lifting system intended for safe transfer of the residents into the swimming pool. The Otter can be used on most kinds of swimming pools: public swimming pools, hotel pools or pools at holiday resorts and your own private pool.

The Otter has been designed to lift a person, who:

- is mobile, but may use a cane for support;
- is independent, can clean & dress himself;
- can tire quickly

The Otter can also be used to lift a person, who:

- uses a walking frame or similar;
- can support herself to some degree;
- is dependent on caregiver, who is present in demanding situations;
- is not physically demanding for caregiver.

1.2 Operational life

The operational life of the Otter and its accessories e.g. chair, etc. is dependent on the actual use conditions. Therefore, before use, always make sure that the lift is safe to use and has not been damaged (see Preventive Maintenance Schedule at the end of this document for details). If any damage should be observed, do not use the Otter.

Neptune shall always be handled by a trained caregiver who will care for the resident in accordance with these Operating and Product Care Instructions.

WARNING

A clinical assessment should be carried out by a qualified nurse or therapist before lifting residents for suitability of transfer in the Otter e.g. residents who have curvature of the spine or who are subject to muscle spasms or other residents may not be suitable.

During resident transfer to and from the water, two caregivers are present. One to operate the lifter and the other to assist the resident at all times. Extra care should be given during resident transfer from the water when both resident and seat are wet.

1.2 General safety instructions

Only use Nibotechnics chairs and transporting equipment that have been specifically designed for the Otter.

Do not overload the Otter beyond the approved lifting capacity of 160 kg (352 lb).

Do not manually lift the complete lifter.

WARNING

Insert the support column correctly into the column location socket/base plate.

Ensure that the anchor sockets have been installed according to the Nibotechnics recommendations.

2. Product description / function

2.1 Parts referred to in the manual

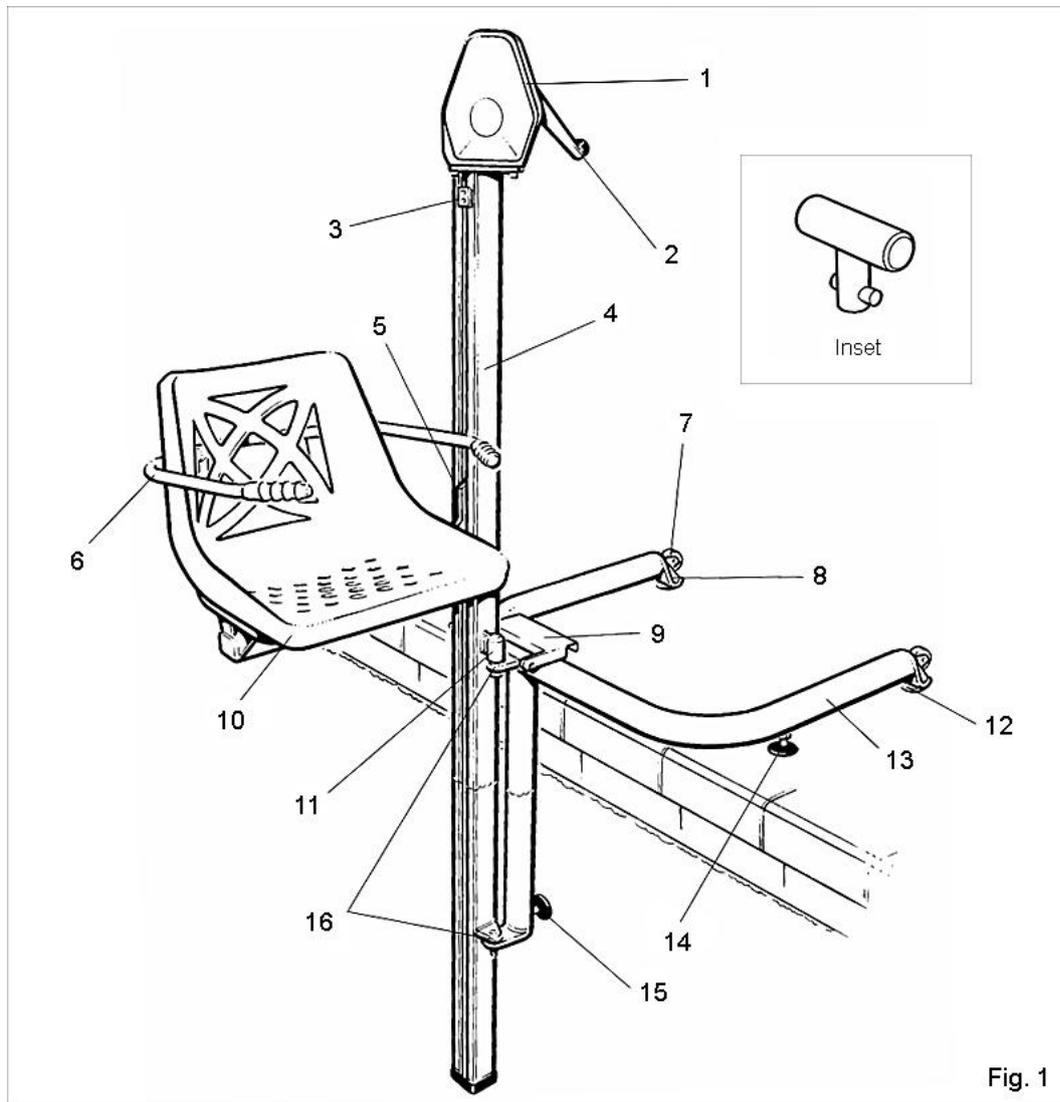


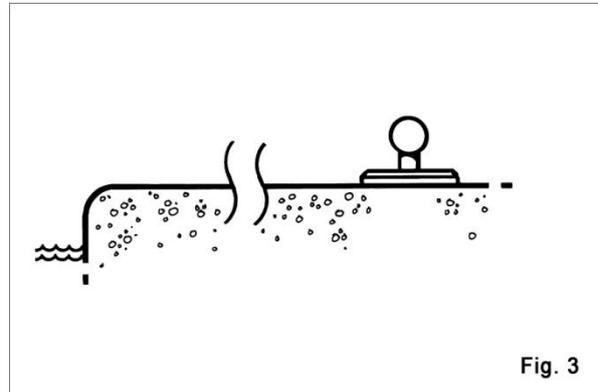
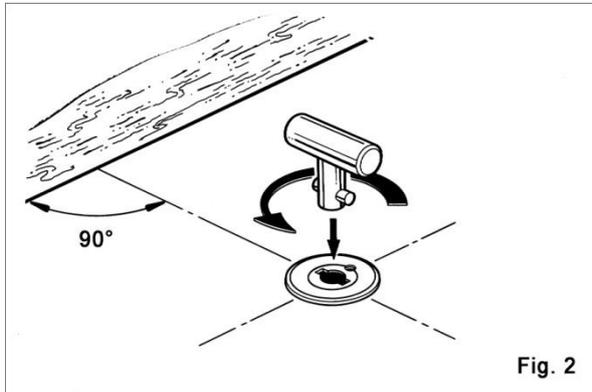
Fig. 1

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Winch | 9. Metal pivot release pedal | |
| 2. Winding handle | 10. Seat assembly | |
| 3. Traveller limit stop | 11. Frame lug | Inset. Anchor key |
| 4. Mast | 12. Pool floor socket | |
| 5. Traveller | 13. 'U' base frame | |
| 6. Fold back arm rest | 14. Frame reactor pad | |
| 7. Poolside mobility wheels | 15. Mast reactor pad | |
| 8. 'Claw' feet | 16. Mast pivot pins | |

3. Using your Otter

3.1 Preparation

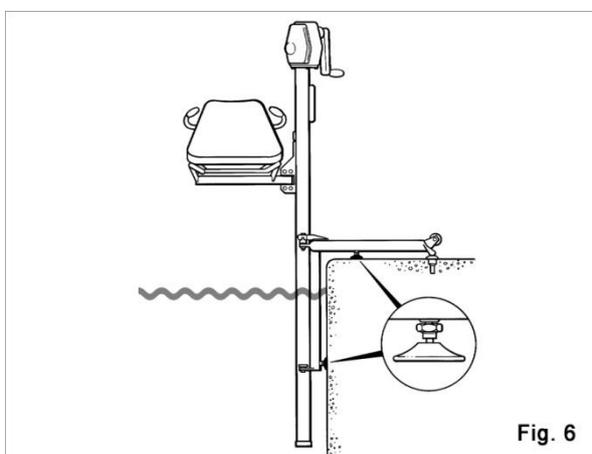
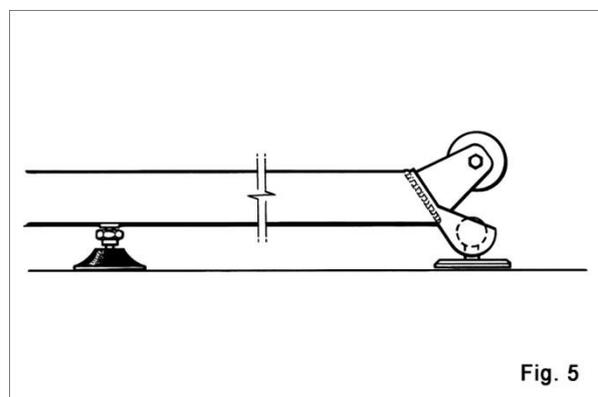
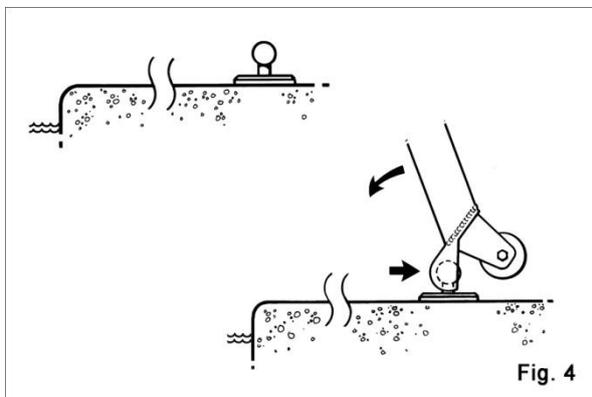
Firstly, insert both anchor keys into the floor sockets and rotate them through 90°. The top of the “T” shaped anchor key should rise above the socket and parallel to the poolside (see Figs. 2 and 3).



Carefully wheel the Otter to the poolside by holding the winch housing (as shown in Fig. 10). Place it in the approximate mounting position, with the bottom of the mast pointing outwards over the pool.

Manoeuvre the base frame on the wheels until the “claw” feet are level with the “T” shaped anchor keys (see Figs. 4 and 5).

Lower the “pool end” of the mast, so that the claw feet hook securely under the anchor keys. Continue lowering until the mastreactor pad is against the wall of the pool.



The mast should be vertical, or nearly so. If adjustment is necessary, this can be achieved by systematically adjusting the reactor pads situated underneath the “U” base frame and against the pool wall (see Fig. 6).

Your Otter is now ready for use.

3.2 To transfer the resident to the water

WARNING

Never leave the resident unattended. Always work according to good bathing principles e.g. check water temperature, water depth, care of the resident, etc.

Transferring the resident to the water will depend on the ability of the resident. If the resident is able to walk, then before allowing the person to reach the Otter, adjust the seat, using the winding handle, to normal chair height and fold back the arm rest.

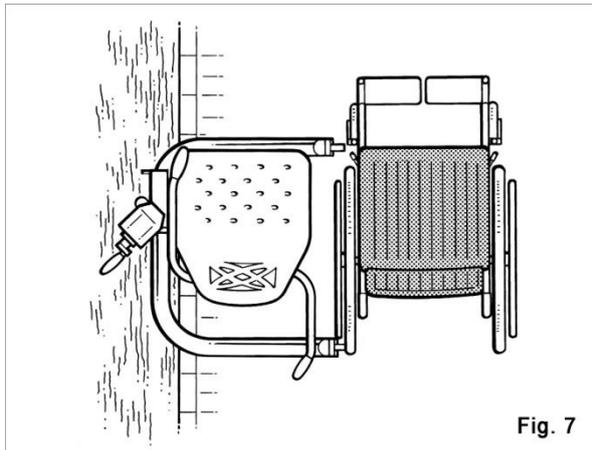


Fig. 7

If he/she is brought to the poolside on a wheelchair, then position the wheelchair alongside the Otter seat, with the Otter situated between the wheelchair and the pool (see plan view in Fig. 7). Ensure the Otter mast rotation lock works and that the wheelchair brakes are applied.

Adjust the Otter seat by using the winding handle until the height is satisfactory for transfer. Fold back the Otter seat arm rest nearest to the resident, to allow easy access. If possible, it will also be helpful to remove the side of the wheelchair and to lift the wheelchair footrests clear.

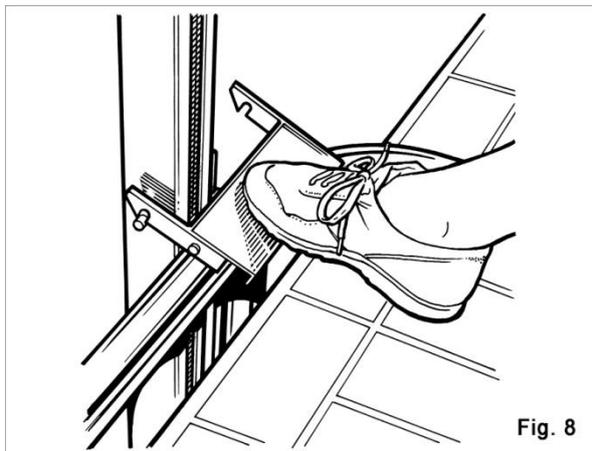


Fig. 8

Once the resident has been transferred and is seated comfortably, return the arm rest. Ask the resident to hold the arm rests and make sure that he/she is ready to go into the water.

Release the mast rotation lock by pressing down on the footplate (see Fig. 8).

As soon as the mast is able to rotate, release pressure on the footplate.

Rotate the mast, with resident in the seat, backwards and out over the pool edge until the rotation lock operates again.

Turn the winding handle counter clockwise to lower the resident into the water until he/she is sufficiently buoyant to move off the seat easily. An assistant in the water may be required and should give greater confidence to the resident.

WARNING

If the resident is unable to support himself/herself in the water, a helper should always be in the water ready to receive the resident, while another assistant should remain on the poolside ready to operate the lift/lower mechanism as necessary (see Fig. 9).

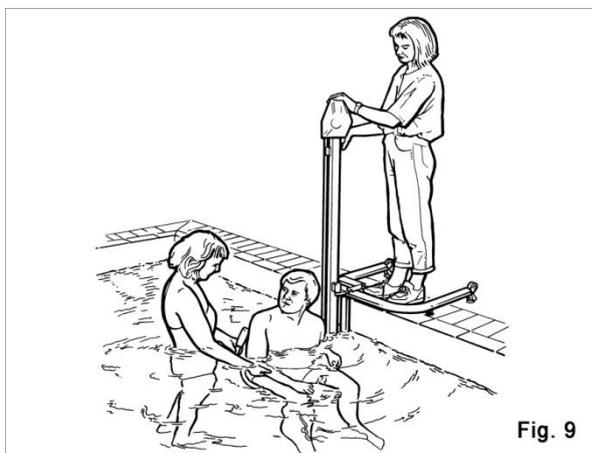


Fig. 9

When returning the resident to the poolside, reverse the procedure described above, ensuring the arm rest is down and encircling the resident during the lift and rotation back over the poolside.

Ensure the Otter mast rotation lock works for the lift and final transfer position and that the brakes are applied to the wheelchair (if used) before allowing the resident to transfer.

3.3 To remove the Otter from the poolside

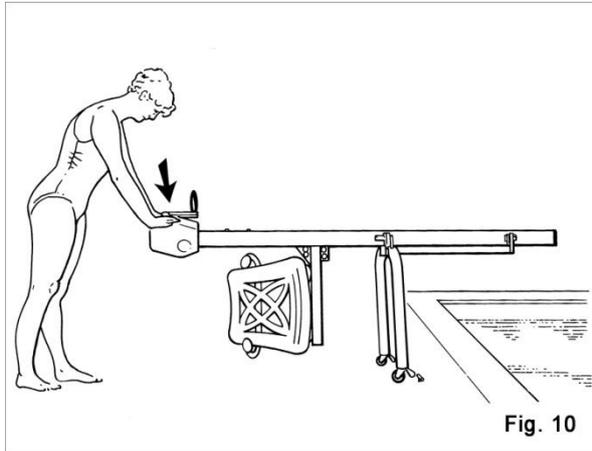


Fig. 10

Before removing the Otter from the poolside, wind the seat to the highest position. Pull back on the top of the mast, to pivot the Otter backwards, until the mast is horizontal (see Fig. 10). Push down a little further until the wheels on the "U" base are in contact with the floor.

Push the Otter towards the pool slightly until the claw feet release from the anchor keys.

Manoeuvre the Otter clear of the pool edge.

Wheel the Otter away and store for future use.

The anchor keys should be removed from the sockets to avoid a poolside obstruction.

The wheels allow the Otter to be transported on level services without the need for lifting.

4. Care of your Otter

For cleaning your Otter, wipe down with a damp cloth using warm water to which a mild detergent has been added.

CAUTION

Do not use petroleum based solvents or similar, as these may damage plastic parts.

WARNING

If in any doubt about the correct functioning of the Otter, withdraw it from use and contact the distributor.

UK LIFTERS ONLY: Important legislation came into force on 5th December 1998, which has an impact on the schedule of service for your patient lifter(s), variable height baths and other raising and lowering equipment. The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998 and The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER 98) must be satisfied by the duty holder. A scheme of six monthly through examinations has been devised to comply with the law and details can be obtained from the distributor UK.

Spare parts, if required are available from Nibotechnics or their approved distributors.

Special tools are required for certain component replacement.

The simplest; safest and most effective way to maintain your product in good working order, is to have it methodically and professionally serviced by the distributor approved engineer using Nibotechnics approved spare parts.

For information on service and maintenance contracts, please contact your local distributor.

4.1 Environmental advice

When disposing of any items associated with the lifter, contact the appropriate local authority for advice.

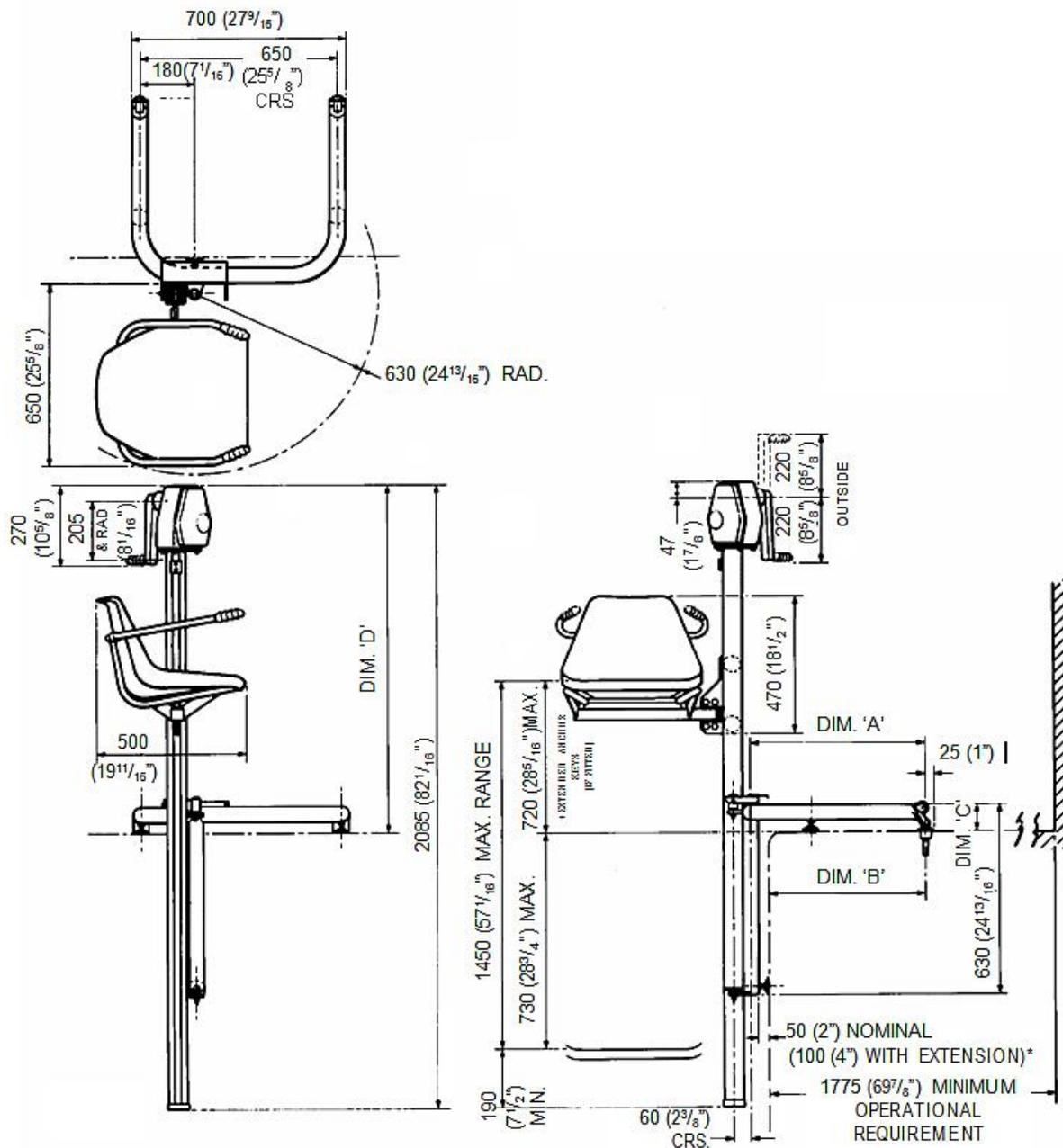
For information on the maintenance instructions of your Otter, direct yourself to the Preventive Maintenance Schedule in the back of this manual.

5. Technical specifications

5.1 Component weights

	kg	lbs
Mast & winch	22,50	49,6
Seat & fixings	5,85	12,9
Base & fixings	10,35	22,8 (Std.)
	10,92	24 (+ 150 mm base)
	11,49	25,3 (+ 300 mm base)
	12,06	26,6 (+ 450 mm base)

5.2 Dimensions



DIM.'A'	DIM.'B'	
	WITHOUT EXTENSION	WITH EXTENSION *
575 (22 ⁵ / ₈ "	500±12mm (19 ¹¹ / ₁₆ "	450±12mm (17 ³ / ₄ "
725 (28 ¹ / ₂ "	650±12mm (25 ⁵ / ₈ "	600±12mm (23 ⁵ / ₈ "
875 (34 ¹ / ₂ "	800±12mm (31 ¹ / ₂ "	750±12mm (29 ¹ / ₂ "
1025 (40 ³ / ₈ "	950±12mm (37 ³ / ₈ "	900±12mm (35 ¹ / ₂ "

ANCHOR KEYS		DIM.'C'	DIM.'D'
FOR	STD	85 (3 ³ / ₈ "	1165 (45 ⁷ / ₈ "
	+30mm	115 (4 ¹ / ₂ "	1195 (47 ¹ / ₁₆ "
	+50mm	135 (5 ⁵ / ₁₆ "	1215 (47 ¹³ / ₁₆ "
	+70mm	155 (6 ¹ / ₈ "	1235 (48 ⁵ / ₈ "
RAISED POOL EDGES	+90mm	175 (6 ⁷ / ₈ "	1255 (49 ³ / ₈ "
	+110mm	195 (7 ¹¹ / ₁₆ "	1275 (50 ³ / ₁₆ "
	+130mm	215 (8 ¹ / ₂ "	1295 (51"
	+150mm	235 (9 ¹ / ₄ "	1315 (51 ³ / ₄ "

NOTE

Base and anchor key options shown in millimetre dimensions only.

6. Preventive Maintenance Schedule

The Otter is subject to wear and tear, and the following actions must be performed when specified to ensure that the product remains within its original manufacturing specification.

WARNING

The points on this checklist are the minimum the manufacturer recommends. In some cases due to heavy use of the product and exposure to aggressive environment, more frequent inspections shall be carried out. Continuing to use this product without conducting regular inspections or when a fault is found will seriously compromise the user and residents' safety. Local regulations and standards may be higher than the manufacturers. Preventive maintenance specified in this manual can prevent accidents.

The parts which are entitled 'Checks to be performed by Qualified distributor personnel' have to be carried out by qualified personnel, using correct tools and knowledge of procedures. Failure to meet these requirements could result in personal injuries and / or unsafe product.

Action/Check	Before each use	Every day	Every week	Every 6 months	Every 12 months	Every 2 years
Make sure the Otter is installed into the anchor keys and the Reactor pads are adjusted correctly. See Operating Instruction for full installation details.	X					
After each and every use clean down the Otter in accordance with the Operating Instructions.	X					
Examine all exposed parts, especially where there is personal contact with the patient's body. Make sure no cracks or sharp edges have developed that could cause patient or user injury or have become unhygienic. Replace where necessary.	X					
Make sure all instruction labels are firmly attached and are readable. Replace as required.	X					
After use each day, wash the Otter with fresh water (not pool water) and wipe dry. If the Otter has not been used and is stored in a pool side atmosphere then periodically wash it down with fresh water and wipe dry, as pool side atmospheres can be corrosive.		X				
With the seat in the fully lowered position, visually examine the exposed lifting strap within the mast for any cuts and fraying. If the lift strap is damaged in any way the Otter must not be used until the lift strap is replaced.			X			
Make sure all external fittings are secure and all screws and nuts are tight.			X			
Make sure the mast rotation lock catch works satisfactorily and the foot operated release plate functions smoothly.			X			
Fully raise and lower the seat using the winding handle for full and satisfactory movement.			X			
Make sure the wheels rotate freely and the wheel bracket is firmly attached to the base frame.			X			
Make sure, on the mast, the upper pivot-retaining bolt is tight.			X			

Action/Check	Before each use	Every day	Every week	Every 6 months	Every 12 months	Every 2 years
A general visual inspection of all external parts should be carried out periodically and all functions should be tested for correct operation, to ensure that no adverse damage has occurred during use.			X			
CHECKS TO BE PERFORMED BY QUALIFIED NIBOTECHNICS PERSONNEL						
Carry out the Weekly Preventive Maintenance Schedule checks plus the following: Check the torque of the poolside Rawlplug fixings if M10 bolts are used torque to 26Nm (20 lbf ft) or if M8 bolts (early models) torque to 20 Nm (15 lbf ft).				X		
Perform a Load Test to the Safe Working Load (SWL).				X		
Carry out the 6 Monthly preventive Maintenance Schedule checks plus the following: If a safety bar is installed at the top of the mast, make sure it is secure and the nuts are tight. Make sure the handgrips on the hand-crank assembly and armrests are secure. Carry out a general visual inspection of all external parts and make sure that no adverse damage has occurred during use.					X	
Carry out the 12 Monthly Preventive Maintenance Schedule checks plus the following: Inspect the friction discs within the winch housing and replace if necessary. Replace the lift strap. Due to the complexity of the winch housing and requirements for setting slip clutches, Nibotechnics recommends a service exchange of the winch housing.						X

WARNING

If in any doubt about the correct functioning of the Otter, withdraw it from use and contact Nibotechnics Service Department or your distributor.

Produced by:

Nibotechnics nv

Heikant 5 | 3930 Hamont-Achel | Belgium

T +32 (11) 80 20 40 | info@nibotechnics.com | www.nibotechnics.com