

# Lifting Equipment and Lifting Operations Regulations (LOLER)

“Lifting equipment” as defined in the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) regulations, means “work equipment for lifting or lowering loads and includes its attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting it”.

Such equipment includes overhead gantry cranes, forklift trucks, table stackers, personnel hoists and accessories such as chains, slings, shackles, harnesses etc.

Equipment can be mechanical and powered in its use and thus providing mechanical means to eliminating heavy lifting. All such equipment is identified to its capacity.

The use of such equipment is controlled by trained operators, monitored by supervision and maintained in accordance with the legislation. When lifting materials and assemblies the weight and configuration of the load is either calculated or estimated by the designer, user and operator. In doing so it ensures that the equipment is not overloaded and eliminates the potential for causing failure or the collapse of the equipment.

All operators of the lifting equipment must be fully trained in the operation of the lifting equipment and are required to assess the operation before carrying out any lifting. If in doubt they are to contact supervision and cease work, thus this reduces the potential of striking objects or people.

Companies are also to ensure that all lifting equipment is maintained in such a way as to ensure effective and safe operation. A planned preventative maintenance system should ensure the organisation repairs and services are carried out as needed. Faulty or out of date equipment must be quarantined until inspected and re-certificated.

All lifting equipment is to be used by authorised users only. Access to the equipment is only permitted under instruction and authorization from a senior authority. When not in use the equipment is either parked and controls secured or the equipment is isolated.

Selection of equipment for a work activity will be subject to new plant and equipment assessments carried out in advance by a senior authority and any external assistance deemed as necessary.

All lifting equipment must undergo a thorough examination by a competent person (independent of the user) before being used for the first time and at regular intervals thereafter as recommended by the manufacturer’ as interpreted by the competent person. Certificates shall be issued to the user identifying compliance or noncompliance.

Equipment certification must be logged by the user for future reference and retained while the equipment is in use and for the life of the equipment. A written examination scheme compiled by a competent person shall accompany the lifting equipment to ensure inspections and examinations are carried out according to the equipment specification.

All maintenance and repairs on the lifting equipment must be catalogued and retained with the certification information.

All equipment shall be clearly marked as to its SWL (WLL).

Lifting equipment shall be subject to 12 month examination unless;

- a) reclassified by the competent person carrying out the examination whereby the written scheme shall be altered,
- b) accessory equipment which shall be subject to six monthly inspections,
- c) Where equipment is required to lift persons (eg man basket, safety harness, lanyard etc) these items shall be subject to six monthly examinations.

Before installation of any lifting equipment a risk assessment must be undertaken and include lifting plans where relevant to identify any significant hazards that arise from the use of any of the lifting equipment. These assessments must be communicated to all users that assist or use the equipment.

When compiling lifting plans and assessments the following points are to be considered: -

The type of load being lifted.

The risk of the load or equipment falling and striking a person or object.

The risk of lifting equipment overturning whilst in use.

The load-bearing capability of the ground on which it is situated.

Any incident involving lifting equipment must be investigated and reported under the Dangerous Occurrences, as defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR), are reported to the Health and Safety Executive.

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