

HEALTH & SAFETY

Regulations for Lifting Equipment

New regulations governing the use of lifting equipment come into effect on November 1st 2007 with the introduction of the *General Application Regulations 2007*. The regulations apply across all workplaces and, therefore, they replace existing sectoral law and in particular, Regulations 80 -103 of the Construction Regulations 2001, which deal specifically with lifting appliances and lifting gear in construction.

Definitions

Definitions made under *Regulation 27*, with reference to lifting operations include:

- *Work Equipment* - any machinery, appliance, apparatus, tool or installation at work.
- *Lifting Equipment* - work equipment for lifting lowering loads or pile driving, and includes anything used for anchoring, fixing or supporting such equipment. (Examples include cranes, excavators, telehandlers, hoists, a passenger lift in a office blocks and a vehicle inspection hoist in a workshop).
- *Lifting Accessories* - include clamps and similar attachments, chain slings, rope slings, rings, hooks, shackles, swivels, spreader beams, spreader frames and any other item placed between lifting equipment and the load or on the load in order to attach it, but excluding features of the load used for its lifting.
- *Load* includes a person.
- *Non-integrated cage or basket* means one which is not equipped with controls that control its movement.

Requirements

For the most part the requirements relating to the use of lifting equipment remain familiar. In summary requirements include:

Forms

Any form may be used provided the correct information is specified on the form. For the time being it is anticipated that current CR forms will continue to be used. For mobile plant, records / forms must be kept on the machine in addition to any office.

Thorough Examination and Inspections

There is a requirement to thoroughly examine lifting appliances every every 12 months. Where lifting equipment is to be used to lift persons it must be thoroughly examined every 6 months. See tables below regarding the periods for thorough examination and testing.

Excavators, Telehandlers, or Loaders Used As Cranes.

The requirements relating to the use of these machines as cranes, for example using an excavator to lift a pipe, are:

- The SWL of the machine must be marked on the machine or displayed in the cab. Where applicable SWLs at different operating radii must be provided
- Hydraulically operated machines with a maximum rated lifting capacity of more than 1000 kg, must be fitted with check valves on the cylinders.
- In the case of a telehandler with a maximum rated lifting capacity of more than 1000 kg, it must be fitted with an automatic safe load indicator.

Conditions Regarding the Lifting of Persons

Regulation 48 states that work equipment ‘*not specifically designed*’ for the purpose of lifting persons is not to be used other than in exceptional circumstances. A teleporter or a crane used with a non-integrated man-rider cage falls into this category. Where exceptional circumstances prevail some of the conditions that apply include:

- The control position must be manned at all times.
- The cage basket must be properly secured to the lifting machine.
- The total load must be half the rated capacity of the lifting equipment.
- The lifting equipment has a capacity not less than 1000kg unless the manufacture indicates that the machine is suitable for such use.
- Lifting equipment in free fall mode must not be used for lifting persons.

Duty of Persons Who Hire Lifting Equipment to Others

Under *Regulation 59* a hire company has a duty to ensure that when lifting equipment is hired out, physical evidence in the form of test and examination certificates must accompany it.

Period of Testing of Lifting Equipment (As part of A Thorough Examination)

Description of Equipment	Period when testing is required
All lifting equipment	After any substantial alteration or repair affecting its strength or stability
Fixed lifting equipment	Before first use
Tower Crane	After each assembly and every 4 years
Mobile Crane	Every 4 years
Winch	Every 4 years
Self Erecting Crane	After erection and before first use on site and after any change in configuration or support conditions
Pulley block, gin wheel, sheer legs used with loads weighing 1,000 kg or more	Before first use in a new position

Period of Thorough Examination of Lifting Equipment & Lifting Accessory

Description of lifting equipment or lifting accessory	Period
Crane	12 months
Excavator	12 months
Fork lift truck including interchangeable accessories	12 months (6 if used to lift persons)
Telehandler including interchangeable accessories	12 months (6 if used to lift persons)
Mobile elevating work platform	6 months
Passenger hoist or lift	6 months
Suspended access equipment	6 months
Mast climbing work platform	6 months
Lifting accessories including chains, ropes, rings, hooks, shackles, clamps, swivels, spreader beams and spreader frames, vacuum lifting devices	6 months
Tower crane climbing rig	6 months
Items provided for support of lifting equipment	12 months
Winches used for lifting loads	12 months
Vehicle lifting table	12 months
Tailboard goods lift	12 months
Other machines for lifting materials (e.g. Lorry Loader)	12 months
Other machines for lifting persons	6 months

Note

1. *Lifting equipment is also subject to thorough examination after substantial alteration or repair.*
2. *A thorough examination is not required for new lifting equipment which is accompanied by an EC declaration of conformity and certificate of test, issued no more than 12 months before the lifting equipment was put into use.*