



Unsafe lifting operation could result in serious injury or even fatality to workers, which may also pose a danger to general public in the vicinity. In order to prevent the occurrence of accidents or dangerous occurrences, construction industry stakeholders including contractors, subcontractors, employers, safety practitioners, operators of lifting appliances, signallers, slingers, and workers should strictly implement the following safety measures:

As Contractors / Subcontractors / Employers:

- Plan the lifting operation and ensure that a safe system of work for lifting operation is in place and with due regard to the selection, siting, operation of the lifting appliances and lifting gears, the rigging method and the working environment with the provision of necessary safety information, instruction, training and supervision;
- Deploy a competent and experienced supervisor to oversee the lifting operation to ensure that all risks are effectively reduced/ managed;
- Select and provide suitable equipment to ensure safe lifting operation taking into consideration the characteristics of loads (for example: shape, size, weight, center of gravity, material, etc.), the lifting method and physical conditions on the work site;
- Take safety measures to prevent the swinging or rotation of the load while lifting (for example: ensuring the positioning of the supporting hook directly above the centre of gravity of the load and providing and ensuring the use of control rope, etc.);
- Fence off the lifting zones as far as reasonably practicable for the lifting operation and exercising strict access control measures with suitable warning notices in place to avoid unauthorized man-entry into the area;
- Ensure that operators and signallers have completed relevant training courses and hold valid certificates;
- Appoint a competent person and a competent examiner as appropriate to inspect, thoroughly examine and test lifting appliances and lifting gear on a regular basis. Lifting appliances and lifting gear should not be used unless they have been certified to be in safe working order;
- Ensure that all loads are securely attached by a properly trained and competent slinger to avoid slipping or displacement of the loads during the lifting operation;
- Deploy a trained signaller to give clear signals to the operator if the operator does not have a clear and unrestricted view for the lifting operation;
- Ensure that an effective communication system, among all personnel involved in the lifting operation, is in place and implemented before the commencement of the lifting operation;



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- Closely monitor the lifting operation to ensure that no person stays underneath the suspended loads and within the sphere of operation of any lifting appliances;
- Deliver briefing to related works team about the lifting area arrangement and safety issues concerned through morning assembly or others effective communication channel.
- Establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all the above safety measures.

As Safety Practitioner:

Safety Practitioners should assist their employers/clients to: -

- Conduct task-specific risk assessment of the lifting operation, and advise the control measures according to the results of the risk assessment to eliminate all associated hazards;
- Provide safety training to relevant persons/workers;
- Develop and implement effective proactive inspection programme on compliance checking and reporting of non-compliance of safety requirements.

As Lifting Appliances Operator:

- Undergo relevant training courses and have obtained valid certificates;
- Ensure at all time safe operation of the lifting appliance under his control;
- Inspect the conditions of the lifting appliances and lifting gear before use;
- Follow the safe working procedures and the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe lifting operations, for example, the outriggers should be fully extended as far as practicable and the "safe working load" should not be exceeded during the lifting operation;
- Closely monitor the lifting operation to ensure no person stays underneath the suspended loads and within the sphere of operation of any lifting appliances;
- Keep good and effective communication with signallers.

As Signallers and Slings:

- Inspect the conditions of the lifting gear before use;
- Undergo relevant training courses and have obtained valid certificates;
- So far as reasonably practicable, erect fences or barriers to ensure effective segregation of persons from lifting area;



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- Closely monitor the lifting operation to ensure no person stays beneath suspended loads and within the sphere of operation of any lifting appliances;
- Ensure that all loads are securely attached by a properly trained and competent slinger to avoid slipping or displacement of the loads;
- Maintain effective communication with the lifting appliance operators.

As Other Site Personnel:

- Beware of the lifting area arrangement and take note of all relevant safety issues;
- Beware of and alert the surroundings, and do not stay beneath suspended loads and within the sphere of operation of any lifting appliances;
- Liaise with contractors' responsible person(s) (for example: Lifting Supervisor) for lifting arrangement;
- All loads shall be rigged by properly trained and competent slingers only;
- Lifting signals shall be given by competent signallers only.

Reference Materials:

Construction Industry Council

- Safety Alert No. 001/16 Lorry-mounted Cranes Pre-use Checklist (June 2016)
- Safety Alert No. 004/13 Safe Use of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear (October 2013)
- Safety Poster No. P-CSY-001-17-E Lifting Safety (January 2017)

Labour Department / Occupational Safety and Health Council

- Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear) Regulations, Cap 59J
- Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes, Labour Department (October 2011)
- Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes, Labour Department (September 2017)
- Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear, Labour Department (June 2011)
- Safe Lifting, Occupational Safety and Health Council

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