Toolbox talk

Lifting operations and slinging

Plan the lift, check the gear, keep clear of the load

10 minutes

For: Slingers, signallers, crane and plant operators, and anyone working near lifts

Why it matters

Falling loads, collapsing cranes and people struck by moving loads cause serious injuries and deaths. Every lift needs a plan, the right gear, and competent people doing it.

Key points

1. Every lift must be planned by a competent person, properly supervised and carried out safely.
2. The lift plan should be recorded, and everyone involved must understand it before the lift starts.
3. Slingers, signallers and operators must be trained and competent for the lift.
4. Use only lifting gear marked with its safe working load and not overdue for thorough examination.
5. Slings, chains and other lifting accessories need a thorough examination at least every 6 months, unless a scheme says otherwise.
6. Don't use knotted or damaged chains, kinked wire ropes, or frayed or rotted fibre slings.
7. The wider the angle between sling legs, the more load each leg takes.
8. Keep people clear of the load. Avoid lifting over people, and keep anyone not involved out of the area.

Sources: HSE: Lifting operations in construction; HSE: Safe lifting by machine; HSE: Thorough examination of lifting equipment; LOLER 1998, regulation 7: Marking of lifting equipment.

This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/lifting-operations**

Toolbox talk

Lifting operations and slinging

Do

- Check slings, chains and hooks before every lift.
- Pack sharp edges so they don't cut or damage slings.
- Use a recognised set of signals, with one person giving them.
- Keep a safe distance from overhead power lines, excavations and buildings.
- Stop the lift if the wind, ground or load isn't as planned.

Don't

- Don't stand or walk under a suspended load.
- Don't lift more than the safe working load of any part of the gear.
- Don't drag, drop or shock-load slings and chains.
- Don't use gear with a defect. Take it out of use and report it.
- Don't use lifting equipment to lift people unless it's designed for it.

Ask the group

- Who plans and supervises the lifts on this site?
- Where do we keep the thorough examination records for our lifting gear?
- What signals do we use, and who gives them?
- What would make you stop a lift?

If it goes wrong: If a load falls or someone is struck, signal the operator to stop, call 999 and get a first aider. Keep everyone clear of the crane and the load. Take the lifting gear out of use and tell your supervisor.

On this site

Nearest first aider _____

Emergency assembly point _____

Site-specific hazards and controls _____

_____

Sources: HSE: Lifting operations in construction; HSE: Safe lifting by machine; HSE: Thorough examination of lifting equipment; LOLER 1998, regulation 7: Marking of lifting equipment.

This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/lifting-operations**

Attendance register

Lifting operations and slinging

Site / project _____ Date and time _____

Presented by _____ Company _____

	Name (print)	Company	Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			

By signing, attendees confirm they took part in this toolbox talk and understood the key points. Keep this record with your site safety file.

Presenter signature _____ Follow-up actions _____

Scan for the latest version of this talk online ›

Go further: LOLER regulations explained

Sources: HSE: Lifting operations in construction; HSE: Safe lifting by machine; HSE: Thorough examination of lifting equipment; LOLER 1998, regulation 7: Marking of lifting equipment.
This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/lifting-operations**

Quick check

Lifting operations and slinging

Tick one answer for each question. Your presenter has the answers.

Name _____ Date _____

1. Who must plan a lifting operation?

- [ ] Whoever is nearest
- [ ] A competent person
- [ ] The delivery driver

2. How often must slings and other lifting accessories be thoroughly examined?

- [ ] At least every 6 months
- [ ] Every 2 years
- [ ] Only when new

3. What happens as the angle between sling legs gets wider?

- [ ] Each leg takes less load
- [ ] Each leg takes more load
- [ ] Nothing changes

4. What must lifting gear be marked with?

- [ ] The owner's name
- [ ] Its safe working load
- [ ] The date it was bought

5. A load has to pass over a work area. What should happen?

- [ ] Shout a warning and carry on
- [ ] Clear the area below and keep people out
- [ ] Lift faster

Sources: HSE: Lifting operations in construction; HSE: Safe lifting by machine; HSE: Thorough examination of lifting equipment; LOLER 1998, regulation 7: Marking of lifting equipment.

This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/lifting-operations**

For the presenter

Answers and sources

Quick check answers

1. A competent person

HSE says lifting operations must be properly planned by a competent person, supervised and carried out safely.

2. At least every 6 months

HSE says lifting accessories need a thorough examination at least every 6 months, unless an examination scheme says otherwise.

3. Each leg takes more load

HSE warns that the load in the legs of a sling increases as the angle between the legs increases.

4. Its safe working load

LOLER regulation 7 requires lifting machinery and accessories to be clearly marked with their safe working loads.

5. Clear the area below and keep people out

HSE says take measures to keep people not involved in the lift safe, including from falling loads.

Sources

- HSE: Lifting operations in construction
  https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/lifting-operations.htm
- HSE: Safe lifting by machine
  https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/lift-equipment.htm
- HSE: Thorough examination of lifting equipment
  https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/thorough-examinations-lifting-equipment.htm
- LOLER 1998, regulation 7: Marking of lifting equipment
  https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1998/2307/regulation/7

> **Presenting tips:** keep it to about 10 minutes, use real examples from your site, ask the group questions rather than reading everything out, and record attendance on the register.

Never stand under a load.

1. Every lift planned and supervised
2. Check the gear and its SWL
3. One signaller, clear signals

Lifting operations and slinging toolbox talk

Scan to read the full talk, free from Tradefox.
tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks

Never stand under a load.

1. **Every lift planned and supervised**
2. **Check the gear and its SWL**
3. **One signaller, clear signals**

Lifting operations and slinging toolbox talk

Scan to read the full talk, free from Tradefox.
tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks

Sources and qualifications

Lifting operations and slinging

Scope: Great Britain safety legislation unless a nation is identified. Northern Ireland has separate legislation. Site rules can be stricter than minimum legal duties; use the site assessment, instructions and competent supervision.

A4 applicability: no installation-design requirement is asserted in this talk. Its claims are referenced to the subject-specific sources below.

S1. HSE: Lifting operations in construction

Planning by competent people, supervision, safe operation and keeping clear; key points 1-3/8 and quiz.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/lifting-operations.htm

S2. HSE: Safe lifting by machine

Slings/angles, safe working load, damage, protection and signals; Do/Don't and quiz.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/lift-equipment.htm

S3. HSE: Thorough examination

Lifting accessories: six-month interval unless a competent examination scheme specifies otherwise; key point 5 and quiz 2.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/thorough-examinations-lifting-equipment.htm