

# ◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



## Safe Lifting

### Task

- ✓ Plan the lift – people, plant, equipment and environment
- ✓ Evaluate area prior to lift – are rigging and landing areas clear from obstacles, debris and trip hazards, and people?
- ✓ Ensure communication between operator and slinger/banksperson at all times – either line of sight or audio using a recognised signalling system.
- ✓ Monitor for changes during task – has layout changed, have working crews moved into the drop zone of the load?
- ✓ Ensure the entire area (including the area where the load is expected to pass) is clear of persons before commencing the lift
- ✓ Ensure the landing area is clear of debris/obstruction
- ✗ Do not exceed the safe working load of machinery or accessories like chains, slings and grabs. Remember that the load in the legs of a sling increases as the angle between the legs increases.
- ✗ Do not lift a load if you doubt its weight or the adequacy of the equipment.

### Individuals

- ✓ All lifts should be planned and approved by an Appointed Person.
- ✓ Assign a responsible competent slinger /banksperson.
- ✓ Ensure all personnel are removed to a position of safety outside the 'drop zone' of a load, prior to the start of any lifting activity; including the slinger/ banksperson. Remember, the area of the 'drop zone' is bigger than the footprint of the load.
- ✗ Never allow anyone to stand under a suspended load or within the 'drop zone'.

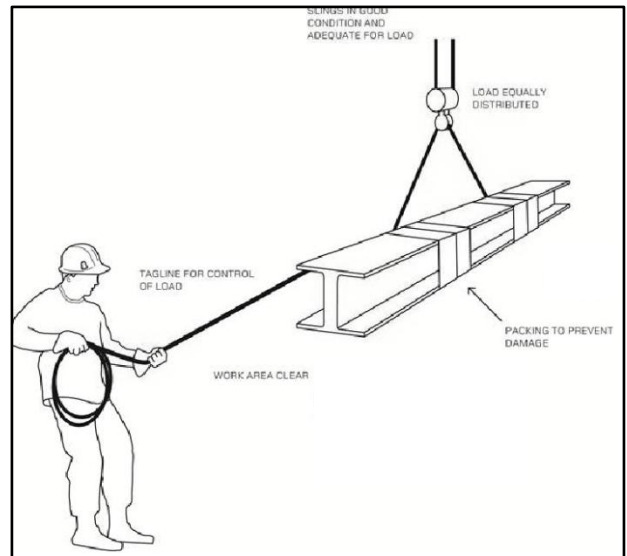


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## Load

- ✓ Ensure the load is properly attached to the lifting equipment. If necessary, securely bind the load to prevent it slipping or falling off.
- ✓ Before lifting an unbalanced load, find out its centre of gravity. Raise it a few inches off the ground and pause – there will be little harm if it drops.
- ✓ Use tag-lines to ensure both control and orientate the load correctly for landing.
- ✗ Do not approach the load until it is as close as possible to its landing area and even then only when it is safe to do so.
- ✓ The lift is not complete until all parts of load are supported and secured.



## Equipment (Slings, clamps, shackles, bars etc.)

- ✓ Use only certified lifting equipment, marked with its safe working load, which is within date for inspection; and that is sufficiently strong, stable and suitable for the proposed use, including lifting points on load.
- ✓ Use packaging to prevent sharp edges of the load from damaging slings and do not allow tackle to be damaged by being dropped, dragged from under loads or subjected to sudden loads.
- ✓ Visibly marked with any appropriate information to be taken into account for its safe use, e.g. safe working loads.
- ✗ Do not use unsuitable equipment, e.g. makeshift, damaged, badly worn chains shortened with knots, kinked or twisted wire ropes, frayed or rotted fibre ropes.

## Environment

- ✓ Create a clear restricted area to prevent unauthorised access to the area
- ✓ Continue to monitor the area to ensure it remains clear of unauthorised persons

**If in any doubt or any of the above cannot be confirmed - STOP!**

Further information can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg290.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg290.htm).