

Toolbox Talk

Hoists & Hoist Towers



What?

- Hoists and hoist towers are devices used for lifting and lowering a load by means of a drum or lift wheel and may be manually or mechanically operated
- They will have a specified safe working load (SWL) which must not be exceeded. It is important to assess the weight of the load to ensure the hoist or hoist tower remains within the safe working load

Why?

- Failure of the hoist or parts of the lifting mechanism can lead to serious and fatal injuries and therefore it is extremely important to ensure the machine and any associated devices have been properly inspected/examined and suitably maintained before using it to lift loads
- A visual check should also be made before use for obvious defects that might affect the safe operation
- You should inspect items of lifting equipment before use especially soft slings e.g. web or nylon to ensure they are in good condition
- There must be documentation which will verify that this is the case to keep all equipment compliant with law. (Normally with Colour Coding)
- Assess weight of the load and centre of gravity before selecting the most suitable type of equipment

Do



- ✓ Verify that it has been inspected, examined and properly maintained
- ✓ Check for visual defects and report them immediately
- ✓ Make sure operators are trained properly
- ✓ Stand clear of the load when raising and lowering
- ✓ Make sure lifting equipment has been attached properly
- ✓ Use the equipment only for its intended purpose
- ✓ Check the load is within the SWL of the hoist
- ✓ Use suitable bearers when lowering loads
- ✓ Make sure lifting attachments are clear of the load when finished

Don't



- ✗ Operate from a place other than the driving seat
- ✗ Carry passengers
- ✗ Leave a load suspended
- ✗ Exceed the SWL of the hoist
- ✗ Allow anyone to ride on the load
- ✗ Stand under the load
- ✗ Leave a machine running whilst unattended

