Lifting Hoists Direct

# SAFETY TIPS

# FOR THE EFFECTIVE USE OF LIFTING HOISTS

Hoists are heavy and valuable pieces of equipment which provide an invaluable role within the workplace. Using hoists safely for the benefit of staff and the longevity of the hoist is essential; in this latest infographic we provide some "safety tips for the effective use of lifting hoists".

## MAINTENANCE

Prevention is better than cure. Effective preventative maintenance will save a lot of time, cost and heartache. Here are some essential hoist maintenance safety tips:

### CLEAN

Ensure the hoist is clean at all times, check before and after every use

### FREE FROM DEFECTS

Ensure that the hoist is free from defects prior to each use

### LUBRICATED

It is essential to lubricate wire ropes and chains for continued smooth and safe operation

### INSPECTION

Hoists need to be inspected regularly:
Everyday use - Quickly inspect the hoist before every use
Periodically (weekly/monthly) – Fully inspect the hoist on a regular basis and repair any obvious defects

### PROPER MAINTENANCE

Ensure that all necessary maintenance is completed:
Ignorance is not bliss – Never ignore necessary maintenance
Never "on the cheap" – Never carry out maintenance at a lower cost by knowingly using sub-standard parts and low-cost maintenance staff who may not be knowledgeable in maintaining your hoist

### SERVICING

In addition to inspections, hoists need to be serviced on every 12 months by a suitably trained and competent person, for all services as per the LOLER 1998 regulations:
Record the examination date
Write down the date when the next service is due
Record any defects found (and ensure they are fixed)

## USAGE

The way a hoist is used will have a major impact on how safe your operations are; here are a few tips:

### ATTACHMENTS SECURED PROPERLY

Ensure that all attachments (hooks, hooks, slings, etc.) are secured properly

### AVOID QUICK AND JERKY MOVEMENTS

Hoist operations need to be smooth, operators need to avoid quick and jerky movements which can cause loads to spill

### CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS

Ensure that as the hoist lifts and particularly when moved laterally that the area is free of all obstructions

### FIXED AND ANCHORED

Ensure that the hoist is fixed and anchored with adequate arrangements in place to secure safe operations

### LIFTING LOAD LIMITS

ALWAYS be aware of and comply with the load limits for the hoist you are using. Exceeding weight limits creates risk when using a hoist

### LOAD CENTERING

Always ensure that loads are centered, this avoids instability and issues related to big-sided loads

### LOAD IS SECURED

Ensure the load is secured; stop immediately if any of the load becomes insecure as this is a major safety risk

### PERSONNEL SAFETY

Hoists should never lift loads above the heads of staff. Additionally, all staff should be standing away from the hoist throughout the entire process

### SELECT BEST HOIST FOR JOB

There are many different types of hoists. Using the best hoist will improve productivity and also safety

### STATIC LOADS

Only hoist static loads, hoists should not be used with loads which vibrate or move

### UNATTENDED LOADS

Never leave loads suspended or in mid-air, complete operations prior to moving onto other types of work

## COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY AND LEGAL GUIDELINES

An important part of the safe use of lifting hoists is following the compliance guidelines available. These are there for your benefit and include legal and regulatory compliance:

### CE MARKED

Equipment should be marked with CE to marked complete with a Declaration of Conformity, written in English.

### LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Comply with basic LOLER requirements of Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER)[1] and also the Lifting Equipment Engineering Guidelines [2]

### MANUFACTURER'S GUIDELINES

Ensure that the guidelines of the hoist manufacturer. Don't pay "lip service" to these guidelines, ensure that you understand and implement the guidelines for safe operations

### WARNING LABELS

Follow all warning labels attached to the hoist and accessories

## ENVIRONMENT

The surrounding environment is a vital factor; here are some environmental tips for hoists:

### DEBRIS FREE AREA

The area around the hoist needs to be free of debris and trip hazards. This is for the safety of the operator and the hoist itself

### DRY

It's preferable to store/use your hoist environment, this will reduce the risk of rust

### HOIST UNDER SIGNS

Install hoist danger signs are visible in areas where hoists are in operation

### PESTS

Ensure that the environment is pest free (rodents, insects and other pests). This can introduce various risks (e.g. gnawing of cables) and also can compromise safety

## HOIST OPERATIVE

Here are some tips relating to the hoist operative:

### TRAINED / QUALIFIED

Only use adults, 18 years and older that are trained and qualified in the use of lifting hoists and also aware of manufacturers guidelines and health & safety law

## MOVING A HOIST

Occasionally hoists will need to be moved around a workshop or even to other offsite premises. In these scenarios various health & safety tips apply, which are provided below:

### COMPLETE OPERATIONS

Before moving ensure that all operations are complete

### DISASSEMBLE FROM OTHER EQUIPMENT

If connected to other equipment, (e.g. a crane), fully disassemble prior to moving

### REMOVE LOADS

Always ensure that any load is removed prior to moving the hoist

### TAKE CARE

Of the hoist and staff!
Hoist - Although they look sturdy, hoists sometimes have delicate internal electrical components, so treat them with care when they are moved
Staff – Hoists can be very heavy, so think ahead and plan, this can help to prevent avoidable injuries to staff

### TURN OFF POWER

This will vary according to the power supply, for example:
Air hoists – Turn off the air supply
Electric hoists – Turn off the electricity supply

## CONTACTING LIFTING HOISTS DIRECT

We hope you have enjoyed this infographic from Lifting Hoists Direct. We can manage all safety aspects of hoists for you including inspections, servicing and maintenance and can also provide emergency breakdown support. For help and advice regarding lifting hoists contact us today on 01384 75182.


Sources:
1) http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/loler.htm
2) http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg290.pdf