



Lifting Courses

Lifting Operations, Lift Plans, Permit to Work, and Risk Assessment

Lifting operations can often put people at great risk of injury, as well as incurring great costs when they go wrong. It is therefore important to properly resource, plan and organise lifting operations so they are carried out in a safe manner. Each of these elements requires a person or people with sufficient competence to be involved at each step. These people should have sufficient theoretical and practical knowledge of the work and equipment in question, as well as the requirements of the law, to be able to do this properly. For complex and high-risk operations, the planning and organisation should be extensive and meticulous.

This course provides delegates with underpinning knowledge and understanding of the legal responsibilities and practicalities of overhead cranes and lifting operations. It covers areas such as lifting terminology, overhead cranes, types of rigging and lifting equipment, accessories and slinging management.

This course is designed to give delegates an understanding of the depth and quality of content required in the production and completion of lifting plans and risk assessments.

The planning of individual routine lifting operations may be the responsibility of those who carry them out (e.g. a slinger or crane operator). But for much more complex lifting operations (e.g. a tandem lift using multiple cranes), a written plan should be developed by a person with significant and specific competencies - adequate training, knowledge, skills and expertise - suitable for the level of the task. Routine lifting operations which are a little more complex may, depending on the circumstances, need to be planned each time the lifting operation is carried out.

The plan for any lifting operation must address the foreseeable risks involved in the work and identify the appropriate resources (including people) necessary for safe completion of the job. Factors to include may be any or all of the following:

- Working under suspended loads.
- Visibility.
- Attaching / detaching and securing loads.
- Environment.
- Location.
- Overturning.
- Proximity hazards.
- Derating.
- Lifting people.
- Overload.
- Pre-use checking.
- Continuing integrity of the equipment.

The plan should set out clearly the actions involved at each step of the operation and identify the responsibilities of those involved. The degree of planning and complexity of the plan will vary and should be proportionate to the foreseeable risks involved in the work.

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