

# inspecting lifts and lifting equipment

understanding and managing the impact of LOLER 1998



The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) came into force on 5th December 1998 and apply to all businesses in the UK that have lifting plant.

LOLER covers all work equipment that has a lifting function. In conjunction with PUWER '98, the regulation aims to offer adequate safeguards to people working with lifting equipment, and control the ways in which companies use and maintain these items.

This datasheet summarises the regulations and the effects they have on companies, while also indicating what businesses need to do to ensure legal compliance with LOLER. It provides a comprehensive list of the types of equipment covered, and indicates how frequently these items need to be inspected under statute.

LOLER was implemented in order to rationalise the legislation that applies to lifting equipment. By complying with these regulations, companies can not only improve safety in the workplace but also run their businesses more efficiently.

## The effective control and maintenance of lifting equipment

By introducing this comprehensive piece of legislation, the requirements for the examination and testing of lifting equipment have been harmonised across all types of industry, making it easier for businesses to comply.

In essence, LOLER details the specific requirements for commercial lifting equipment, including the need for regular, thorough examinations. The regulations also require that all lifting operations are properly planned and supervised.

LOLER applies not only to the equipment itself, but also to the safe operation of that equipment.

## What is lifting equipment?

Lifting equipment is defined by LOLER as work equipment used at work for the lifting and lowering of loads and includes attachments used for anchoring, fixing and supporting the load.

This definition covers a wide variety of items including cranes, forklift trucks, passenger lifts and pallet trucks. Attachments include ropes, slings and eyebolts.

A more detailed list is included within this datasheet.

## Who do the regulations apply to?

LOLER applies to users (employed or self-employed), managers or owners of lifting equipment.

## What do businesses have to do to comply with LOLER?

The overall impact that LOLER has on a business depends on the type and amount of lifting equipment owned or used by that company.

- All lifting equipment needs to be identified
- All lifting operations planned
- All lifting plant needs to be inspected on a regular basis.

## Identifying lifting equipment

As a first step, businesses need to **review their lifting equipment**, making sure that all relevant items under LOLER are identified. **A list of this equipment** will then need to be established for **examination by a competent body**. Zurich Risk Services is qualified to help you and your company manage this process.

## Reviewing inspection requirements

LOLER requires businesses to undertake **periodic inspections of their lifting equipment**. These inspections need to be carried out by a competent, trained individual, from an outside independent organisation that has sufficient experience in the inspection of lifting equipment.

Zurich Risk Services has a team of 500 trained surveyors that are well equipped to undertake these statutory inspections. For more information, please contact your closest Customer Risk Centre.

## How frequently do inspections need to happen?

Where the safe operation of work equipment depends on its conditions of use, then the frequency of recommended inspections will depend on how quickly the work equipment is likely to deteriorate, thereby causing a significant risk to the user and those around them.

Inspections must be carried out:

- Before the equipment is put into service (unless it has a declaration of conformity less than 12 months old)
- Immediately following installation
- Where equipment operates in conditions which could cause deterioration
- After an exceptional event, for example an accident.

We advise all customers to assess the actual risks posed by the lifting equipment according to the operations performed in specific circumstances, since those risks may well affect the required frequency of inspections.

## Frequency of inspections

The table below gives an indication of how frequently inspections need to happen. The following table gives a more thorough list.

Lifting equipment that lifts people	6 monthly
Lifting accessories, including shackles, hooks, chains etc	6 monthly
All other lifting equipment, including cranes and loading equipment	12 monthly

## Looking at lifting operations

Managers must plan and, where necessary, supervise all lifting operations. By providing appropriate training to those people involved in lifting operations, companies can help reduce the risks posed to health and safety.

Where lifting operations are continuous, owners or users may need to produce a **written method statement**.

The purpose of this statement is to ensure

- that the lifting equipment provided is suitable for the task in hand
- that the lifting operation will not endanger people in the vicinity
- that the operators have all the necessary information, instructions and training.

In the event of special lifting operations, businesses need specific planning to consider all aspects of the process.

<b>Main Item</b>	<b>Considered to include</b>	<b>Examination Periodicity Months</b>
<b>Cranes</b>	Jib, Static, Mobile and Rail Mounted	12
	Container	12
	Crawler	12
	Derrick	12
	Dockside	12
	Goliath and Semi-Goliath	12
	Lorry Loaders	12
	Overhead	12
	Pillar Jib	12
	Portable Jib	12
	Portal	12
	Shipbuilding	12
	Tower	12
	Transporter	12
	Wall Jib	12
	Telpher	12
<b>Hoists and Lifts</b>	Ash, Coke and Skip Hoists	12
	Builders Hoists, goods only	12
	Builders Hoists, passenger	6
	Passenger Hoists or Lifts	6
	Goods only Hoists or Lifts	12
	Passenger and Goods Hoists or Lifts	6
	Inclined Material Hoists	12
	Service Lifts	12
	Home Lifts	6
	Man Hoists	6
	Paternoster Passenger Lifts	6
	Paternoster Goods only	12
	Scissor Lifts	6
	Stair Lifts	6
Teagle Hoists	12	
Refuse Vehicle Lifting Arms	12	
<b>Patient Hoists</b>	Patient Hoists	6
<b>Pipe Laying Machines</b>	Pipe Laying Machines, Lifting Functions	12
<b>Winches</b>	Winches, if used for lifting loads	12/6
	Capstans, if used for lifting loads	12/6
<b>Sheer Legs</b>	Sheer Legs with Winch	12/6
<b>Blocks</b>	Rope	12
	Hoist	12
	Manual	12
	Powered	12
	Pulley	12

<b>Main Item</b>	<b>Considered to include</b>	<b>Examination Periodicity Months</b>
<i>Blocks Continued</i>	Snatch	12
	Chain	12
	Ratchet	12
	Gin Wheels	12
	Hook Hoist	12
Safety and Rescue Equipment for Supporting, Raising and Lowering Persons	Arborealist's Equipment	6
	Bosun's Chairs	6
	Mountain Rescue Sets	6
<b>Miscellaneous Items (for Supporting Lifting Equipment)</b>	Anchorage, Suspension Points and Fixing Bolts	12
	Tracks	12
	'A' Frames	12
	Overhead Gantry	12
	Davits	12
	Gantry	12
	Jib Arms	12
	Overhead Crane Bridges	12
	Runway Tracks and Beams	12
	Trolleys	12
Lifting Accessories	Eyebolts*	6
	Cradles	6
	Girder Clips	6
	Lifting Beams and Frames	6
	Plate Clamps	6
	Lifting Lug, Bar, Plate and Arm (when not fixed to load)	6
	Rigging Screws	6
	Running out Blocks or Pole Carriers	6
	Shackles	6
Slings	6	
Interchangeable Equipment	Fork Attachments	12
	Fork Lift Truck Attachments	12
	Work Platforms for Fork Lift Trucks	6
	Grabs	12
	Hooks	12
	Magnets	12
	Vacuum Lifting Devices	12
Drum Clamps	12	
Access Equipment, Suspended	Suspended Access Equipment	6
	Window Cleaning Rigs	6

Main Item	Considered to include	Examination Periodicity Months
Work Platforms	Mobile Elevating Work Platforms	6
	Mast Climbers	6
	Mast Hoists	6
	Bridge Maintenance Access Equipment, with lifting function	6
Platform Stackers	Platform Stackers	12
Car Parking Systems	Car Parking Systems**	6/12
Vehicle Recovery Equipment	Vehicle Recovery Equipment	12
	'Spectacle' Frames	12
Tailboard Hoists or Lifts	Tailboard Hoists or Lifts	6/12
Jacks	Multistage	12
	Trolley	12
Vehicle Lifts	Motorcycle Lifts	12
	Vehicle Lifts or Hoists	12 [6]
Vehicle Skip Hoists	Vehicle Skip Hoists	12
Road Vehicle Wheel Lifters	Road Vehicle Wheel Lifters	12
Drum, Coil or Roll Lifting Devices	Drum, Coil or Roll Lifting Devices	12
Fork Lift Trucks	Fork Lift Trucks	12/6
Order Pickers	Order Pickers, all types	6/12
Load Handling Equipment	Loading Shovels used for lifting	12
	Earth Moving Machinery used for lifting	12
	Excavators used for lifting	12
	Telescopic Load Handlers	12
Straddle Carriers	Straddle Carriers	12
Cable Drum Raising System	Cable Drum Lifters	12
Stage Equipment	Stage Equipment Hoists	12/6
	Camera Booms	12/6
Palletisers	Palletisers (pallet raising machine)	12
Drilling Rigs	Drilling Rigs, Lifting Functions	12

\* Only considered accessories when removable from load. When fixed they form part of the load, and are not lifting equipment. For fall arrest – eg window cleaning – inspect under PUWER '98.

\*\* Only considered work equipment if controlled by an operator. Not work equipment if computer controlled.

## the next step

For further information, please contact your broker, or your local Zurich Customer Risk Centre.

Alternatively, you can call us directly on: 0121 456 1311 or visit our website at

[www.zurich.co.uk/riskservices](http://www.zurich.co.uk/riskservices)



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