

Lifting Equipment

Introduction

There are requirements for the following three types of lifting, equipment:

- Equipment used to lift people
- Powered equipment used to lift loads other than people and
- Unpowered equipment used to lift loads other than people

In this context lifting includes lowering.

In general, all lifting operations should be assessed and planned so that risk is reduced to a tolerable level. Lifting operations should be planned, supervised and carried out in a safe manner. They should only be undertaken by people who are competent to complete them safely.

Lifting equipment should be well maintained and routinely checked to ensure that it is in a safe condition.

Clubs are advised to ensure that ...

- The equipment is only used by people who are competent to use it. (The level of competence required will depend on the design and characteristics of the equipment)
- Equipment is used in a safe and controlled manner
- Where appropriate, people are kept clear of the item being lifted
- If any defect is found then the use of the equipment ceases until it has been repaired and an examination shows it to be satisfactory

Equipment used to lift people

This should only use equipment that has been designed and installed for this purpose. It should be marked with the load it can safely carry.

The equipment is subject to statutory examination when it is first installed, prior to it being used, and at least every six months thereafter. The examination should be based on a written scheme and should be documented.

Stair lifts and other equipment such as hoists and slings used for lifting people are also subject to these requirements. There is more information [here](#).

(The legal situation in respect of employees is clear and as described above. In the case of visitors, club members and other people who are not employed by the club it should be remembered that section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work, etc, Act applies. Section 3 imposes a duty in relation to people who are not employees of the organisation concerned. It would be prudent for clubs to adopt the standards of care outlined above.)

ClubHub provides general guidance to clubs and their members. It is however the responsibility of each club to maintain up-to-date risk assessments and define and monitor its own safety practices, guidance and procedures specific to its environment and activities, which clubs shall ensure are made known to their members and members shall comply with the same.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information and guidance in this manual is accurate and reflective of best practice at the time of publication, it is the users' responsibility to ensure that such information and guidance is up to date before acting upon it. British Rowing accepts no responsibility for the content of third party websites accessed through links in this publication.

Clubs are advised to ensure that ...

New equipment

- New equipment is installed by a reputable company
- A written scheme of examination is provided by the supplier
- The equipment is examined, and found to be satisfactory, prior to its first use
- This initial examination is documented and the records are provided to the club
- The equipment is examined, using the written scheme, at least every six months
- These examinations are documented and the records are provided to the club
- Records of examinations are kept

Existing equipment

- If the club does not have a written scheme of examination then it develops a written scheme or contracts a competent supplier to do so.
- The equipment is examined, using the written scheme, at least every six months
- Any defects found are rectified, and the equipment re-examined and found to be satisfactory, prior to the continued use of the equipment
- All examinations are documented and the documentation is retained.

In many cases, particularly for passenger lifts and similar equipment, clubs will have maintenance contracts with a supplier who will undertake these examinations, complete maintenance and remedial actions, and provide reports.

Powered equipment used to lift loads other than people

This equipment could either be mobile or static but the general requirements outlined above still apply.

The equipment is subject to statutory examination when it is first installed, prior to it being used, and at least every twelve months thereafter.

Clubs are advised to ensure that ...

New equipment

- A written scheme of examination is provided by the supplier
- The equipment is examined, and found to be satisfactory, prior to its first use
- This initial examination is documented and the records are provided to the club
- The equipment is examined, using the written scheme, at least every twelve months
- These examinations are documented and the records are provided to the club
- Records of examinations are kept

Existing equipment

- If the club does not have a written scheme of examination then it develops a written scheme or contracts a competent supplier to do so.
- The equipment is examined, using the written scheme, at least every twelve months
- Any defects found are rectified, and the equipment re-examined and found to be satisfactory, prior to the continued use of the equipment
- All examinations are documented and the documentation is retained.

Unpowered equipment used to lift loads other than people

Unpowered or manually powered equipment is still subject to the same requirements as powered equipment but the equipment is likely to be much simpler so the scheme of examination will be much simpler.

This equipment could include, for example, hoists consisting of ropes and pulleys, and sticks or props used to lift boats onto racks.

Clubs are advised to ensure that ...

- The equipment is designed and constructed such that it is suitable for purpose
- The strength of each component is sufficient to lift, lower and hold the load being moved
- A written scheme of examination is produced by a competent person prior to the initial use of the equipment (see below)
- The equipment is examined and found to be satisfactory prior to its initial use
- The equipment is examined, using the written scheme, at least every twelve months
- Any defects found are rectified, and the equipment re-examined and found to be satisfactory, prior to the continued use of the equipment
- All examinations are documented and the documentation is retained.

In the case of simple equipment, the written scheme of examination is little more than a simple checklist identifying the components to be examined. In the case of a simple rope and pulley system these components should include: -

- Ropes, including knots, splices and anything fixed to them
- Slings
- The fixing and condition of cleats and similar fastenings
- The fixing and condition of fixed pulleys
- The condition of mobile pulleys

It should be noted in the design of these systems that a knot will tend to reduce the effective strength of a rope by 50%.

Legal Requirements

The relevant regulation is the

Lifting, Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 see www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg290.pdf

Further Information

For further information see

The Approved Code of Practice on Safe use of lifting equipment at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l113.pdf (this is free to download).

How the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations apply to health and social care (HSE information sheet) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsis4.pdf>