



Vodafone Focus Alert

Lifting Equipment at Work

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 – (LOLER)

Case Study

In December 2020, we had a Dangerous Occurrence, resulting in a RIDDOR notification to the HSE. As part of a lifting operation to remove a dish at the top of a tower, a new Derrick was fabricated as an anchor point for the top of the structure.

Subsequently, the Derrick failed under load, resulting in a **RIDDOR** notifiable Dangerous Occurrence (Failure of Lifting Equipment).

Following the incident, the contractor confirmed that verification of equipment certification (i.e. the load specifications) had not been identified or addressed prior to the lifting operation.

Our investigation has identified that the incident was caused by the load bearing capacity of the derrick being insufficient to hold the required load, resulting in the derrick attachment failing during the lifting operation.



LOLER requires all employers and self-employed involved in lifting operations to make sure that all Lifting Equipment is:

- sufficiently strong, stable and suitable for the proposed use. Similarly, the load and anything attached (eg timber pallets, lifting points) must be suitable;
- positioned or installed to prevent the risk of injury, eg from the equipment or the load falling or striking people;
- visibly marked with any appropriate information to be taken into account for its safe use, eg safe working loads.
- Accessories, eg slings, clamps etc, should be similarly marked.

Additionally, you must make sure that:

- lifting operations are planned, supervised and carried out in a safe manner by people who are competent;
- where equipment is used for lifting people it is marked accordingly, and it should be safe for such a purpose, eg all necessary precautions have been taken to eliminate or reduce any risk;
- where appropriate, before lifting equipment (including accessories) is used for the first time, it is thoroughly examined. Lifting equipment may need to be thoroughly examined in use at periods specified in the Regulations (ie at least six-monthly for accessories and equipment used for lifting people and, at a minimum, annually for all other equipment) or at intervals laid down in an examination scheme drawn up by a competent person. All examination work should be performed by a competent person (someone with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience);
- following a thorough examination or inspection of any lifting equipment, a report is submitted by the competent person to the employer to take the appropriate action.

You MUST have a Specific Lifting Plan for ALL Lifting (and Lowering) Operations

All incidents must be reported via Airsweb or the Help Desk Email: HSE.Helpline@vodafone.com

REMEMBER – FAILURE OF LIFTING EQUIPMENT IS RIDDOR REPORTABLE

