

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.

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 the employers employees. It would be prudent for clubs to adopt the standards of care outlined above.)

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.

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.

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>