

Any organisation requiring a load to be moved by a crane, has two basic options:

Option 1 - Hiring a crane or using their own crane (if they have one) and managing the lift themselves; in which case they are responsible for ensuring that there is a safe system of work in place and that all lifting operations are carried out safely, in accordance with current legislation and best practice.

Option 2 - Employing a lifting contractor to carry out the lifting operation, where the planning, supervision and execution of the lifting operation(s) will be carried out by the contractor. This is known as a Contract Lift.

In the case of a Contract Lift, whilst most of the commercial liability is taken by the lifting contractor, the employing organisation is **NOT** relieved of all their duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and subsidiary Regulations (CDM, MHSWR, WAHR, PUWER, LOLER etc). They must:

- Cooperate fully with the lifting contractor;
- Provide information on the weight and centre of gravity of the load to be lifted;
- Provide information on the integrity of any lifting points on the load to be lifted;
- Provide information on load pick up and landing locations;
- Provide information on access and egress to the site including any access roads or tracks, and the rigging area for the crane(s) and any support vehicle(s);
- Provide confirmation of the ground bearing capacity of the ground on which the crane(s) and any support vehicle(s) will stand or travel over;
- Agree and implement any measures required for additional outrigger foundations;
- Liaise with other contractors on site to ensure that they are aware of the lifting operation and any effect on their operations;
- Agree the size and location of exclusion zones;
- Agree the nature and construction of physical barriers to the exclusion zone and who is to provide them;
- Agree how exclusion zones should be enforced e.g. will marshals be required and who is to provide them;
- Agree who is to liaise with statutory authorities regarding any road closures, oversailing, proximity to railways etc. including acceptable bearing pressures and payments for licenses and indemnities;
- Review the method statement to ensure that the information they have provided to the lifting contractor has been correctly recorded and interpreted, and that the effect of the lifting operation on the site and surrounding area has been correctly assessed;
- Provide adequate welfare and first aid facilities for the lifting contractor's personnel;
- Provide a brief, but suitable and sufficient, safety induction for the lifting contractor's personnel, concentrating on site specific hazards and emergency procedures;
- Ensure that organisation's supervisor or management representative is on site during the contract lifting operation to liaise with the lifting contractor's Crane Supervisor or Appointed Person.

NOTE 1: *It is important that the information and agreements detailed above are confirmed in writing.*

NOTE 2: *All lifting operations should be carried out in accordance with LOLER and BS7121*

NOTE 3: *The above does not apply in the case of a Contract Lift carried out for a domestic customer. In this situation the Lifting Contractor will assume full responsibility for all aspects of the lifting operation, as the customer would not be expected to have sufficient knowledge to advise the contractor of any significant hazards or be aware of the requirements of LOLER and BS7121. However, as part of the planning process the Lifting Contractor should make enquiries of the domestic customer regarding potential hazards such as the proximity of cellars, basements and septic tanks.*