

Hands Off
Step Away
Safe Space



Hands Off – Step Away– Safe Space

A new Industry standard:

Safe positioning during lifting operations and minimising direct contact wherever reasonably practicable to reduce the risks to lifting personnel from unexpected load movement.

Hands Off Step Away Safe Space



What is Hands off – Step Away – Safe Space?

Hands off - Step Away - Safe Space is an ILLAPG initiative to bring about a change to some behaviours - many existing behaviours and methods have often encouraged direct contact with loads during lifting operations.

The aim is to change these behaviours to limit as much as is practical direct contact with loads. This also involves changes to Training / methods & RA.



Hands Off
Step Away
Safe Space



Why Hands off – Step Away – Safe Space?

Following a number of incidents several contractors have had with loads and people interaction - many now accept we need change.

This was reinforced further following a tragic fatality at Gatwick in 2022

Hands Off
Step Away
Safe Space



Summer 2023 - the ILLAPG sent out an industry-wide survey with the key question being:

Is there an issue with people and load interaction in the construction industry?

We got our answer – **YES THERE IS**

This has led to the production of these slides and forming part of a national approach to help reduce people / load interface incidents.

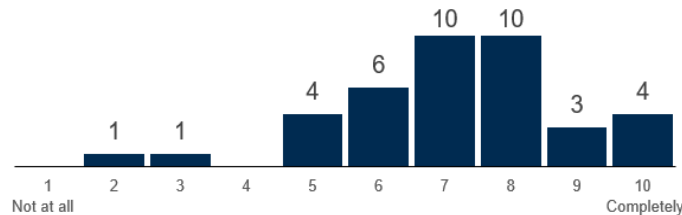
Hands Off Step Away Safe Space



The survey results confirmed that a vast majority not only recognised that there are concerns for lift team members in the immediate vicinity of lifted items, but the exact same emphasis needs to be applied to all personnel that the lifting operation could affect.

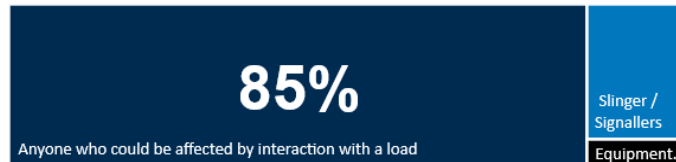
Initial Findings from the ILLAPG Personnel / Load interface survey

Q. How much of an issue do you think we have in the industry with positioning of lifting personnel in close proximity of loads?



85% scored 5 or more - a strong indication this is an **industry wide issue.**

Q. As an industry, when looking at personnel / load interface improvements, who should we focus on?



Focus should be on **anyone who could be affected by interaction with a load.**

Hands Off Step Away Safe Space



ILLAPG
INDUSTRY LIFTING
LEAD AP GROUP

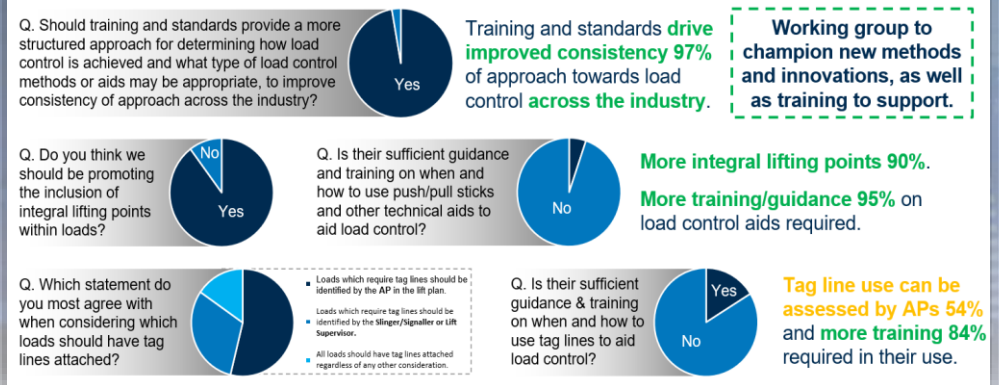
There is an overwhelming desire to see collaboration between training bodies and employers to improve instruction and guidance for individuals actively engaged in lifting operations.

The industry must ensure improved load control measures are widely adopted.

Training and Guidance



Load Control and Accessories



Actions taken from survey findings

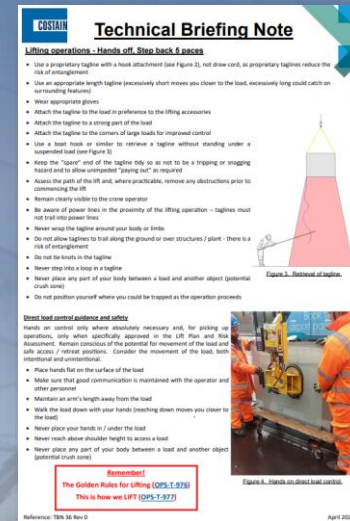
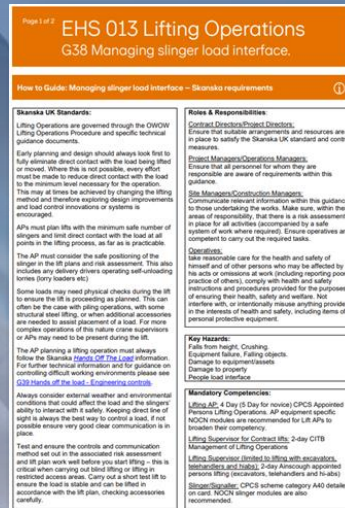
In October 2023, a working group was formed to identify and develop solutions to these issues for the industry. The working group reports to the ILLAPG and was tasked to come up with:

- *Short term remedies to be communicated and shared to address immediate concerns.*
- *Medium term measures to be identified and planned for delivery during first half of 2024*
- *Longer term solutions for delivery later in 2024.*

Hands Off Step Away Safe Space



The Working Group has already authored procedures and guidance attending to concerns raised in the survey.





An ILLAPG definitive guidance document is on the process of being published.

Hands Off Step Away Safe Space

Many major projects have produced documents and instigated poster campaigns to reinforce the strategies to negate problem scenarios at point of workface!

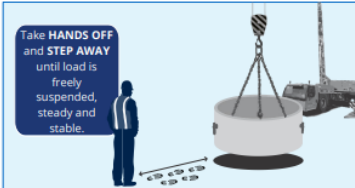
Poster can be downloaded FoC at:
<https://www.cpa.uk.net/safety-and-technical-publications/industry-lifting-lead-ap-group-publications>


C1 ■ ALIGN aim high 

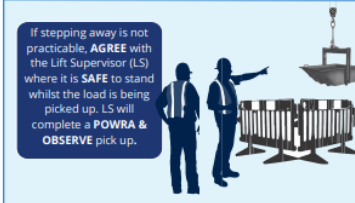
Hands Off Step Away 

Unexpected load movement:

- Loads are more likely to move or settle at the start of the lifting operation;
- People in close proximity to a load are at greater risk of being struck by a load which moves unexpectedly;
- It is important at initial pick up of a load that the slinger signaller can move to a safe space, agreed by the crane supervisor.

Take HANDS OFF and STEP AWAY until load is freely suspended, steady and stable. 

If DIRECT CONTACT is required, this is subject to **RISK ASSESSMENT** by the **APPOINTED PERSON**. 

If stepping away is not practicable, AGREE with the Lift Supervisor (LS) where it is **SAFE** to stand whilst the load is being picked up. LS will complete a **POWRA & OBSERVE** pick up. 

Why do loads move unexpectedly?

- Hook not over the center of gravity;
- Fluid loads (e.g. water tanks, diesel bowsers);
- Equipment / boom deflection;
- Turning loads upright;
- Loads with a round base (e.g. concrete skip);
- Loads obstructed or snagging;
- Bale arm of a tipping skip;
- Loads pulled together (e.g. rebar, scaffold tubes);
- Poor communication;
- Dynamic factors (e.g. crane slews, hoists, faster than expected).

Risk Assessing Load Handling:

- Determine which loads need a push/pull stick or tag line control;
- Determine the number and positioning of tag lines;
- Assess whether there needs to be direct hands-on control;
- Assess where the slinger signaller will be in a safe place;
- Assess and manage the potential for load movement;
- SLAM stop if things change and assess with your Crane Supervisor and Appointed Person.

Have a question on lifting operations?
email: ALIGN-Lifting@alignjv.com – Raising Safety in Lifting

Hands Off
Step Away
Safe Space



Videos are now available and being produced to provide live action methodologies of what is expected at point of lift.

The FoC ILLAPG video is due for release summer of 2024.

CITB & NOCN intend to show this video to students as part of their training.



Hands Off
Step Away
Safe Space



Many Industry groups within the ILLAPG and wider construction industry are also supporting this initiative with training bodies formulating the inclusion of **Hands Off –Step Back – Safe Space** within established training courses.

Hands Off
Step Away
Safe Space



If you have any questions, or ideas you are willing to share on the **Hands Off –Step Back – Safe Space** initiative, please contact the Working Group at the ILLAPG via:

illapg@cpa.uk.net