



# HEALTH & SAFETY *BULLETIN*

Source Testing Association

The Health & Safety Bulletin is a means of disseminating important issues relating health and safety of professionals involved in air emission monitoring and allied fields.

To contribute to this publication please e-mail [H&S@s-t-a.org](mailto:H&S@s-t-a.org) with your suggestions or article

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**STA Guidance notes are available from the publication page on the web site.**

**Visit [WWW.S-T-A.org](http://WWW.S-T-A.org)**



## Health and Safety Briefing

The STA are subscribing to this fortnightly newsletter produced by Croner.CCH Group Ltd. In each newsletter we will publish the contents list of each newsletter that is on file.

If you would like copy of any particular issue please contact Samantha.

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## Lifting operations at work (LOLER regs)

### Introduction

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) replaced most of the existing sector-specific legislation relating to the use of lifting equipment in December last year.

The Regulations apply over and above the general requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998, and to areas of work previously outside specific lifting equipment legislation, such as agriculture.

LOLER requires the risks from lifting operations and lifting equipment to be managed safely, and contains requirements relating to:

- Equipment strength and stability
- Positioning and installation
- Marking
- Thorough examination and testing
- Record keeping.

### Definition of lifting equipment

Regulation 2(1) defines lifting equipment as "work equipment used for lifting or lowering loads and includes its attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting it". Therefore, it covers any accessories which attach the load to the equipment as well as the equipment which actually carries out the lifting function.

The Regulations apply to any relevant equipment provided for use at work, whether it is old or new, owned, leased or hired. Types of equipment that would be covered by the Regulations include:

- Cranes
- Passenger lifts
- Bath hoists
- Eyebolts, shackles, etc used for lifting operations
- Hoists installed as part of other machinery (eg a paper hoist on a printing machine)
- 'Dumb waiters' in restaurants
- Pallet trucks
- Loader cranes attached to delivery vehicles
- Automated storage and retrieval systems within warehouses
- Vehicle tail lifts
- Vehicle inspection hoists
- The lifting elements of fork lift trucks
- Vehicle recovery equipment
- Pulley, ropes, slings, etc.

### Duty holders

LOLER places specific duties on sup-



### Scaffolding Inspection

The Health and Safety Task Group has been reviewing accidents that have happened in the last year. One accident involved a scaffolding collapse.

Although the scaffolding had a **SCAFTAG** and its accompanying documentation was supposedly in order, the scaffolding was not tied to the stack. The scaffolding collapsed when a team had deployed to the sampling location with all their equipment.

We are therefore advising that all stack test teams that are using a temporary platform should ensure that the platform is secured to a permanent structure. Your health and safety risk assessment is an appropriate point to make and

document this inspection.

**DO NOT TAKE IT  
FOR GRANTED  
THAT BECAUSE  
THERE IS A  
SCAFTAG FITTED  
THE PLATFORM IS  
SAFE.**

The STA recommends to all members note to carry sampling on platforms that do not have the correct certification.

The H&S task group are committed to improving safety for all we do not condone the use or working from

- h **Ladders**
- h **Cherry Pickers**
- h **Unapproved temporary platforms.**



It is the duty of all companies carrying out monitoring to complete risk assessments before carrying out any work.

pliers and end users of lifting equipment, as well as on employers. Employers (including companies and partnerships) have an obligation to ensure that all relevant equipment complies with LOLER.

The Regulations also apply to the self-employed, managers and supervisors responsible for lifting operations, and employers who choose to allow their employees to provide their own lifting equipment.

### Specific requirements

Lifting equipment must be of adequate strength and stability for the particular load, and every part of the load and anything attached to it for lifting must be of adequate strength (regulation 4). Any item of equipment for lifting individuals must be able to be used safely without risk to those in the carrier, and must have devices to prevent the carrier falling and to facilitate the safe rescue of anyone trapped in the carrier (regulation 5).

The employer must ensure that equipment is installed and positioned so as to reduce the risk, as far as reasonably practicable, of the equipment or any load striking a person, or from any load drifting, falling freely or being unintentionally released. There should also be appropriate devices to prevent any person from falling down a shaft or hoist way (regulation 6).

Machinery and accessories for lifting loads should be marked to indicate their safe working loads, and accessories should also be marked with any other information required pertaining to their characteristics, to ensure their safe use. Where the particular configuration of machinery or components affects its safe use, the equipment should be appropriately marked or, alternatively, relevant information must be kept with the equipment. Any equipment intended for lifting individuals should be clearly marked as being for this purpose, and any equipment which should not be used for lifting individuals, but which might be mistaken for such equipment, should also be clearly marked (regulation 7).

Any lifting or lowering operation involving lifting equipment must be:

- properly planned by a competent person
- appropriately supervised
- carried out in a safe manner (regulation 8).

Any lifting equipment exposed to conditions which may cause deterioration to occur, **should be thoroughly examined**

A thorough examination should be carried out before any lifting equipment is first used except where the equipment is new or where appropriate

documentation of such an examination is obtained with the equipment. Where the safety of lifting equipment is dependent upon its installation conditions, or whenever it is moved to a different location, it must be thoroughly examined between installation and its first use. Any lifting equipment exposed to conditions which may cause deterioration to occur, and where such deterioration may give rise to danger, should be thoroughly examined in accordance with an examination scheme as follows:

- Every 6 months for equipment for lifting individuals
- Every 6 months for lifting accessories
- Every 12 months for other lifting equipment
- After any incident or circumstances which may have affected the safety or integrity of the equipment.

Where appropriate, equipment should also be examined at suitable intervals between these inspections by a competent person. An employer should ensure that no lifting equipment leaves his or her undertaking, or is tested, without written evidence of such examinations (regulation 9).

The requirements for a thorough examination are given in Schedule I to the Regulations.

A person carrying out a thorough examination on behalf of an employer is required to:

- Notify the employer immediately of any defect which affects the safety of the equipment
- Send a copy of the report as soon as is practicable to the relevant enforcing authority, if there is an existing or imminent risk of serious injury
- Provide a signed record of the thorough examination to the employer and to any organisation from which the equipment has been hired or leased.

The employer must ensure that (he equipment is not used until the defect(s) specified in such a report has been rectified (regulation 10).

The employer must keep:

- Any EC declarations conformity relating to any of the equipment

All records of thorough examinations for specified periods of time (regulation 11).

**Don't look up  
It could come  
your way!!!**



Pigeons can pass on a number of infectious diseases to humans as well as causing allergies such as asthma and pigeon fancier's lung. The diseases can be picked up both from racing pigeons and wild ones that flock in towns and around warm process plants

"Wild pigeons are a dirty species and can be a vector for diseases such as salmonella and a type of tuberculosis which they pass on through their droppings or by coughing." says Dr Gavin Boyd, a consultant respiratory physician at Stobhill Hospital in Glasgow, who has been studying the birds for 30 years.

"Tiny particles which are released from their feathers can cause asthma in some people, and the feathers often carry parasites, bugs and fleas, so you don't want them flapping too near your face." he says.

Pigeon fancier's lung is a complex allergic reaction which brings on flu-like symptoms, shortness of breath and aching muscles and joints, and is found almost exclusively in people who keep racing pigeons for a hobby.

Another disease which can be caught from pigeons is psittacosis, a type of pneumonia. "This can theoretically be picked up from pigeon droppings," says Dr Stephen Burke, a consultant chest physician at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle. "Most of the diseases you can pick up from pigeons are relatively uncommon, but it is best for children or adults not to stay around them or their droppings for too long."

This is one area in which stack testers would very rarely think of a threat but it is worth looking around when carrying out a risk assessment if there are any signs of pigeon nests etc. Power plants are an example where they can congregate.

**HAVE YOU BEEN ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT HEIGHTS COURSE RUN BY THE STA?**

If not contact Samantha telephone 01462 457535 for the next available dates, cost is only £90.00 per delegate.

## STA Health & Safety Guidance Notes

Booklet "Hazards, Risk and Risk Control in Stack Testing Operations"	HSTGN001
The application of chemical transport regulations relating to stack testing operations	HSGN001
Chemical exposure risks during stack testing operations	HSGN002
Gas Cylinder Guidance	HSGN003
Personal protective equipment	HSGN004
Lone working	HSGN005
Understanding electrical supplies	HSGN006

*All these are available on the STA web site or contact Samantha for paper copies*



### **Health & Safety Booklet**

We have to date printed 5000 copies of our little **YELLOW** book. The booklet is available free to all.

The more that are out with your clients the safer our industry can become.

Contact Samantha for copies, there is no limit to the amount we can send out.