



SAFETY ASSESSMENT
FEDERATION

Guidance

In-Service Inspection Procedures

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment
Regulations 1998 – Regulation 9

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1. SITUATION

Regulation 9 of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) require duty holders to ensure the thorough examination of lifting equipment is undertaken initially, when safety depends on the installation conditions and thereafter periodically for lifting equipment that can deteriorate to a dangerous situation.

LOLER applies to all places of work and defines:

Lifting equipment as: work equipment that lifts or lowers loads and includes its attachment used for anchoring, fixing and supporting it.

Accessory for lifting as: work equipment for attaching loads to machinery for lifting.

Work equipment as: any machinery, appliance, apparatus tool or installation for use at work (whether exclusively or not).

The requirements for lifting equipment and accessories to be thoroughly examined periodically does not replace an employers' responsibility to maintain lifting equipment in efficient working order and good repair, and to ensure inspections are undertaken between thorough examinations. In all cases employers should adopt an effective risk-based regime to ensure safety is maintained at all times and any defects with the potential to cause harm will be detected and remedied in good time.

2. GUIDANCE

2.1 Aim

This Guidance aims to provide the SAFed approach to carrying out the regulatory thorough examinations under LOLER Regulation 9 and particular with regards to the competent person, schemes of examination and periodicity of examinations.

2.2 Competent Person

The HSE Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and Guidance L113 states that the person carrying out the thorough examination must be competent and independent. Further guidance is provided in HSE INDG 339 (rev1) and advises that accreditation by UKAS to the international standard for inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020:2012) is an indication of the competence of an inspection body. The competent person should also be sufficiently independent to allow objective decisions to be made and to ensure reporting in accordance with Regulation 10, even if a defect is rectified at the time.

The HSE guide also states that it is not advisable for the same person who performs routine maintenance to carry out the thorough examination. However, should an employer/owner/duty holder engage such a service they should show how they have considered all the options, how they reached their decision about who should carry out these functions, and also show that the person tasked with undertaking the thorough examination is suitably qualified and sufficiently independent to the extent that is required for a competent person under the law.

2.3 Examination Scheme – LOLER Regulation 9(3)

LOLER allows under Regulation 9(3) for in-service thorough examinations to be carried out either under the periodicities given or by way of an examination scheme, which could vary the periodicity of examination beyond the minimum stated in the Regulations. The ACOP and guidance states that an examination scheme should only be drawn up by a person competent to do so, and that any longer period between examinations specified should be based on a rigorous assessment of the risks, consideration of current plant condition, potential operating environment, future utilisation and duty cycle. Furthermore, such an examination scheme could only be considered where a history of thorough examinations at the original frequency has revealed that defects or potential problems are highly unlikely to occur, and the consequences of failure are low.

Consequently, there will be very few examples where a longer periodicity between examinations could be specified. Where an examination scheme is specified, this should be regularly reviewed to consider changes to the risk factors over time, such as those due to use, age deterioration etc. The examination scheme must be made known to the competent person carrying out the thorough examination, together with the evidence to justify any longer period between examinations. The Competent Person should note the scheme on the report. If an examination scheme is not provided the periodicities given in LOLER will be presumed.

2.4 Periodicity of Examination

For clarification of the different types of lifting equipment and usage, the attached tables identify in general terms lifting equipment requiring thorough examination by a competent person and the maximum periodicities for such examinations.

Note 1: Whilst the Table is based on the specified maximum thorough examination periodicities detailed in Regulation 9(3) (a) the ultimate need for thorough examination will result from risk assessment. Competent persons carrying out thorough examinations should investigate the owners/operators record of use.

If for a given application or circumstance the periodicities do not adequately protect persons at risk an alternative period may need to be applied based on the actual risks associated with the environment in which the equipment is used, its condition and the nature and frequency of the loads lifted. This is particularly important for lifting equipment subject to a high duty cycle or continual lifting at or close to the SWL, e.g. port loading cranes, or where the use may have changed or is outside intended operation e.g. platform lifts.

Note 2: In cases when the equipment lifts persons the periodicity of examination should be 6 months. This includes equipment that is primarily designed for the lifting material loads but is occasionally used for lifting persons.

Note 3: Alternatively, you can have an examination scheme drawn up for the lifting equipment in use and have it thoroughly examined in accordance with this scheme. The examination scheme should specify the intervals at which the lifting equipment (or individual parts thereof) should be thoroughly examined and, where appropriate, those parts that need to be tested.

Main Item	Considered to Include:	Examination Periodicity (Months)
Cranes	Jib cranes, static, mobile and rail mounted	12
	Container cranes	12
	Crawler cranes	12
	Derrick cranes	12
	Dockside cranes	12
	Goliath and semi-goliath cranes	12
	Lorry loaders	12
	Overhead cranes	12
	Pillar jib cranes	12
	Portable jib cranes	12
	Portal cranes	12
	Shipbuilding cranes	12
	Tower cranes	12
	Transporter crane	12
	Wall Jib cranes	12
	Telpher cranes	12
	Crane used for lifting persons or fitted with raised cab hoist/Lift	6
Climbing rig	Tower crane climbing rig	6
Hoists and lifts	Ash/Coke/Skip Hoist	12
	Builders hoist, goods only	12
	Builders hoist, passenger	6
	Passenger hoist/Lift	6
	Goods only hoist/Lift	12
	Passenger/Goods hoist/Lift	6
	Inclined material hoist	12
	Service lift	12
	Home lift	6
	Man hoist	6
	Paternoster passenger lift	6
	Paternoster goods only	12
	Platform lift	6/12
Stair lift	6	

Main Item	Considered to Include:	Examination Periodicity (Months)
	Teagle hoist	12
	Refuse vehicle lifting arm	12
Patient hoist	Patient hoist*	6
Pipe laying machine	Pipe laying machine, lifting functions	12
Pile drivers	Pile drivers/Piling rigs	12
Winches	Winches (used for Lifting)	12/6
	Capstans (used for lifting)	12/6
Sheer legs	Sheer legs with winch	12/6
Blocks	Rope	12
	Hoist	12
	Manual	12
	Powered	12
	Pulley	12
	Snatch	12
	Chain	12
	Ratchet	12
	Gin wheels	12
	Hook hoist	12
Safety and rescue equipment for supporting, raising, and lowering persons	Arborist equipment	6
	Bosun's chair	6
	Emergency rescue equipment involving lifting or lowering	6

* Patient hoists fall under the auspice of LOLER when used by those at work even if the hoist is located in domestic premises.

Main Item	Considered to Include:	Examination Periodicity (Months)
Miscellaneous items (Provided for the support of lifting equipment)	Anchorage, suspension points, fixing bolts	12
	Tracks	12
	'A'-Frame	12
	Overhead gantry	12
	Davits	12
	Gantry	12
	Jib arms	12
	Overhead crane bridges	12
	Runway tracks and beams	12
	Trolleys	12
Lifting accessories	Eyebolts [†]	6
	Cradle	6
	Girder clips	6
	Lifting beams/Frames	6
	Plate clamps	6
	Lifting lug/Bar/Plate/Arm (when not fixed to load)	6
	Rigging screws	6
	Running out block/pole carrier	6
	Shackles	6
	Slings	6
Interchangeable equipment. (Considered as part of the lifting machine when permanently integrated)	Load fork attachments (fixed to the load forks)	12/6
	Lift truck attachments (integrated)	12
	Work platforms for forklift trucks	6
	Attachments suspended from the crane hook	6
	Crane attachments (integrated)	12
Access equipment, suspended	Suspended access equipment	6
	Window cleaning rig	6

[†] Only considered accessories when removable from load. When fixed they form part of the load and are not lifting equipment. For fall arrest- e.g. window cleaning - inspect under PUWER

Main Item	Considered to Include:	Examination Periodicity (Months)
Work platforms	Mobile elevating work platforms	6
	Mast climbers	6
	Mast hoists	6
	Bridge maintenance access equipment, with lifting function	6
Platform stacker	Platform Stacker	12
Car parking systems	Car parking systems, only considered work equipment if under the control of an operator. (not work equipment if computer controlled.)	6/12
Vehicle recovery equipment	Vehicle recovery equipment	12
	'Spectacle' frame	12
Tailboard hoist/Lift	Tailboard hoist/Lift	6/12
Jacks	Jacks, multistage	12
	Jacks, trolley	12
Vehicle lifts	Motorcycle lifts	12
	Vehicle lifts	6
	Car transporters	12
Vehicle skip hoists	Vehicle skip hoists	12
	Hook Loader ‡	12
Road vehicle wheel lifter	Road vehicle wheel lifter	12

‡ Health and Safety Executive have advised that this, as of June 2017, equipment should be thoroughly examined by a competent person.

Main Item	Considered to Include:	Examination Periodicity (Months)
Forklift truck	Forklift truck	6/12
	Truck mounted forklift [§]	6/12
Order pickers	Order pickers, All types	6/12
Load handling equipment	Loading shovel — When used for crane duties	12
	Earth moving machinery — When used for crane duties	12
	Excavator — When used for crane duties	12
	Excavator fitted with elevating cab	6
	Telescopic load handler	12/6
	Telescopic load handler fitted with elevating cab	6
	Pallet Trucks (lifting >300mm)	12
Straddle carriers	Straddle carriers	12
Cable drum raising system	Cable drum lifters	12
Stage equipment	Stage equipment hoist	12/6
	Camera boom	12/6
Palletiser	Palletiser (pallet raising machine)	12
Drilling rigs	Drilling rigs, Lifting functions	12

§ Where the lowering from and lifting to the truck stowage location is undertaken by means of a person situated remotely (i.e not seated in the forklift truck operators' position) such equipment should be thoroughly examined at least every 12 months.

Where the lowering from and lifting to the truck stowage location is undertaken by means of a person seated in the forklift truck operators' position, such equipment should be thoroughly examined at least every 6 months.

Depending on operating circumstances, it may be possible to extend the interval between thorough examinations, via a risk assessed engineering judgement documented within an Examination Scheme.