Lifting operations toolbox talk

Tools and plant · about 5 minutes · read it out, or say it in your own words

SITE OR JOB	DATE	PRESENTER

When a crane or hoist lifts roof trusses, steel, precast or a skip of bricks, a broken sling, a badly hooked load or a crane on soft ground can drop tonnes onto the people underneath. Loads also swing and crush hands and bodies against walls. South African law sets firm rules for lifting machines, lifting tackle and the people who operate them.

SAY THIS

Plan every lift

Before a lift we know what the load weighs, where its centre is, how it will be slung, the route it will take and where it will land. The operator must be trained for that type of crane or hoist and, for the machines on the national list, hold a training certificate from an accredited provider. Never ask someone who is not trained to operate it just this once. A TLB or excavator may only lift a slung load if it was designed and equipped for lifting. If not, get a crane.

Check the slings and gear

Every sling, chain and shackle must be marked with its safe working load and an identification number. Look at it before every lift. Cuts, frayed or broken wires, stretched links, crushed eyes or a missing tag mean it is out: put it aside and report it. Hooks must be made so the load cannot come off by accident, so check that the safety catch works. Lifting tackle is examined by an appointed competent person at least every three months, and the results are recorded.

One person gives the signals

Only one appointed person signals the operator, using signals everyone has agreed. Anyone may call stop, and the operator must stop. If the operator cannot see the signaller or the load, the lift does not go ahead until someone can.

Never under the load

Stay out from under a suspended load and out of the area where it could fall or swing. Use a tag line to guide the load, never your hands on a moving load. Nobody rides on a load or on the hook. People may only be lifted in a cage made for lifting people, after a risk assessment.

Ground, wind and power lines

The crane must stand on firm, level ground with its outriggers fully out on proper pads, and well back from trench edges. Look up for overhead power lines before the crane sets up. Strong wind turns sheets and panels into sails, so the operator and supervisor decide when to stop lifting.

Landing the load

Put down bearers before the load arrives so the slings can be pulled out without trapping fingers. Never put your hands or feet under a load to steady it as it lands.

CHECK ON SITE TODAY

- [ ] Is today's crane or hoist operator trained and certified for that machine?
- [ ] Slings, chains and shackles tagged with safe working load and examined in the last three months
- [ ] Hooks with working safety catches
- [ ] Who is the one appointed signaller for each lift?
- [ ] Crane set up on firm ground, outriggers on pads, clear of trenches and power lines
- [ ] Lift area barricaded so nobody walks under the load

ASK THE CREW

- ? What would make you refuse to use a sling?
- ? Who gives the signals today, and what is the signal to stop?
- ? Where will this load land, and what do we need there before it arrives?
- ? Why do we use a tag line instead of our hands?

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THIS JOB

Hard hat · Safety boots · High-visibility vest · Gloves for handling slings and chains

THE LAW

Driven Machinery Regulations, 2015, regulation 18(10): Lifting machines, hand-powered lifting devices and lifting tackle; Driven Machinery Regulations, 2015, regulation 18(4), (8) and (11): Lifting machines, hand-powered lifting devices and lifting tackle; Driven Machinery Regulations, 2015, regulation 18(1), (5) and (7): Lifting machines, hand-powered lifting devices and lifting tackle; Construction Regulations, 2014, regulation 23(1)(c) and (d): Construction vehicles and mobile plant; Construction Regulations, 2014, regulation 22: Cranes. What each one says, in plain words, with links: sitediary.co.za/toolbox-talks/lifting-operations/

Toolbox talk attendance register

TOPIC

Cranes, slings and lifting loads

DATE

SITE OR JOB

TIME

PRESENTER

COMPANY

PRESENTER SIGNATURE

By signing, I confirm that I attended this toolbox talk, that it was given in a language I understand, and that I could ask questions.

NO.	NAME AND SURNAME	COMPANY OR TRADE	SIGNATURE
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Keep this register in the site health and safety file. Log the talk in today's site diary with a photo of this page.