SAFETY ALERT

USE OF LIGHTING COLUMN JACKS

No – 22.24

During a recent site inspection it was observed that medium duty 8m columns had be lowered and raised using a counterbalance spring jack that was incorrectly rated for the task. The 8m column had been lowered \ raised using a Red spring when it should have been lowered \ raised using a Blue or Green spring (depending on the head load).

Counterbalance Product Code	Column Height	Safe Working Load (kg)	Counterbalance Weights (kg)*
RLS168 - Yellow	4m 5m	18kg 10kg	22
RLS168 - White	4m 5m 6m	28kg 19kg 11kg	23
RLS168 - Red	4m 5m 6m	38kg 28kg 19kg	23.5
RLS168 - Blue	4m 5m 6m 8m	53kg 40kg 29kg 11kg	25
RLS168 - Green	8m	17kg	26.5
RLH168 Hydraulic (Small)	4m 5m 6m 8m	53kg 40kg 29kg 17kg	40
RLH1M Hydraulic (Large)	6m 8m 10m 12m	62kg 62kg 32kg 11kg†	49*

All personnel are reminded…

Only ever raise or lower columns if you have been **trained** to use the raise and lower counterbalance units.

Spring counterbalance units are colour coded and each unit has a designated Safe Working Load.

The Safe working load refers to the head weight and not the column itself the head weight is made up of the lighting bracket and lighting unit and any other furniture that is attached to the column.

For example…

An 8m column with a head load of up to 11kg would require a **Blue** spring unit.

An 8m column with a head load of up to 17kg would require a **Green** spring unit.

An overloaded spring will damage the unit and result in the operative having to assist with raising / lowering the column manually causing an increased risk of injury due to manual handling.

When using Spring counterbalance jacks ensure you have the correct spring for the SWL as per the above table.

Personnel must never attempt to raise or lower a column by hand under any circumstances

When planning works that involve the raising and lowering of lighting columns, preference should be given to the use of RLH168 hydraulic column raising and lowering equipment as it covers all spring capabilities and eliminates the chance of selecting an incorrect spring jack for the loads imposed by the various columns.

When installing new columns, it is not possible to attach standard raise\lower units in the lowered position, therefore Abacus strongly advise hinged columns are installed in the same manner as a conventional column i.e. Use a crane to lift the column into place. KH Engineering have some specialist column raising equipment that can be mounted to columns in the lowered position, this can be used when installing a new column and allows the column to be raised without the need for a crane.

Please note…

An 8m column with a 17kg head unit will create a maximum moment about the hinge of >324Kg

An 8m column with a 11kg head unit will create a maximum moment about the hinge of >260Kg

These loads mean it is not safe to lower or raise columns by hand and specialist jacks or equipment must therefore be used at all times.