

SAFETY OF LIFTING OPERATIONS

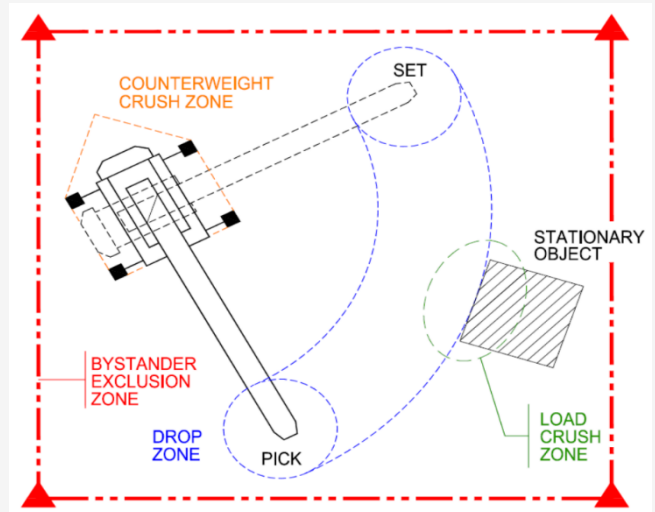
No – 22.21

A recent fatality on a construction site in the UK is believed to have been caused by a lifting operation that resulted in a dropped load. Investigations are still ongoing, but this first alert is being issued to highlight to dangers connected with any lifting (or lowering) operations.

Any activity to that involves the lifting, movement or lowering of a load as part of the lifting operation is inherently dangerous and as such, all personnel that undertake these activities must be trained and competent to undertake their duties in a safe and responsible manner.

All lifting activities must be properly planned and a documented safe system of work (i.e. a lift plan) must be available at the point of work, and all people connected with the lifting operation must be fully briefed on the requirements of the plan.

The lift plan will identify the requirements for the setting up and monitoring of suitable exclusion zones that will protect the area where the lifting operation is taking place.



Exclusion zones must always be set up to ensure that only personnel directly involved in the lift (i.e. the crane operator, slinger and signaller and any other attendants) are able to operate inside the exclusion zone.

All personnel that are required to operate within the exclusion zone should be made aware of the following hazardous areas...

- **The load crush zone** – The space between a suspended load and a stationary object where a person could be crushed.
- **The drop zone** – The area in the vicinity of a suspended load where a person could potentially be struck if the load were to drop, invert or the lifting equipment should fail. Please note - When a crane or lifting machinery is in motion, this includes the area below an empty hook and any lifting attachments.
- **The counterweight crush zone** – The area between the rotating counterweight of a crane or lifting machinery and a fixed object in which a person could be crushed.

The specific hazards listed above must be accounted for within the planning for the lifting operation and be clearly shown on the lift plan.

All lifting equipment (i.e. machines, cranes, hoists, etc) must have been thoroughly examined by a competent person within the past 12 months and a certificate of thorough examination must be available at the point of work (Please note - this changes to 6 months if the equipment is used to lift people – for example, an elevating work platform).

All accessories for lifting (i.e. hooks, slings, chains, shackles, etc) must have been thoroughly examined by a competent person within the past 6 months and a certificate of thorough examination must be available at the point of work.

All equipment that is part of the lifting operation must also be checked and inspected prior to use to ensure that it is not damaged and fit for use.

If you require any further information, please contact any member of the HSQE Team

SAFE BY CHOICE, NOT BY CHANCE

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AUTHOR: Steve Broom – HSQE Director

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