

Lifting Equipment Inspection/Maintenance Requirements

What equipment is covered by LOLER (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (1998)?

Lifting equipment covers a wide scope and includes both the equipment itself and the accessories used to lift.

Lifting Equipment: Passenger, goods and stair lifts, vehicle lifts and vehicle tail lifts, mobile, overhead and bath hoists, scissor lifts and mobile elevated platforms, cranes etc.

Lifting accessories: Slings including patient slings, hooks, shackles and eyebolts etc.

What is thorough examination?

A thorough examination is a systematic and detailed examination of the lifting equipment by a competent person to detect any defects that are, or might become dangerous.

Who is a competent person?

A competent person is someone who has appropriate practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of the lifting equipment to be able to thoroughly examine and identify defects and weaknesses and assess their importance in relation to the safety and continued use of the lifting equipment.

How often must lifting equipment and accessories be thoroughly examined?

- Before use for the first time;
- After assembly and before use at each location (this is for equipment that requires assembly or installation before use, eg tower cranes);
- Regularly whilst in service.
- Following any exceptional circumstances', eg if it is damaged, fails or has been out of use for long periods.

Type of Equipment	6 monthly	Annually
Lifting accessories	X	
Equipment for lifting people	X	
All other lifting equipment		X

Planned maintenance

Planned maintenance should be carried out in accordance with the City Councils agreed examination scheme, this will usually be fortnightly, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly for some goods lifts it may be 6-monthly. To confirm the frequency of maintenance contact Building and Consultancy Services.

Other inspections

Passenger lifts also require an examination and test to be carried out at 1, 5 and 10 yearly intervals in accordance with the Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed 1998) and the relevant LG1 document must be submitted.

Non-passenger lifts must have a 5 yearly safety gear test.

Operator/workplace inspections/maintenance

It is necessary to have operator inspection/maintenance routines in place to identify any obvious hazards or defects, to ensure equipment is safe to use and to undertake routine maintenance such as check/repair/replace old parts and lubrication of parts. A competent person should base the frequency of inspection/maintenance on the type and usage of the equipment.

Record keeping

Type of Examination/Inspection	How long to keep records
Thorough examination before first use	Lifting Equipment – until the employer ceases to use the lifting equipment. Lifting accessories – two years
Thorough examination before use where the safety of the equipment depends on the installation conditions	Until the equipment is no longer in use at the place where it was installed/assembled
In service thorough examinations, 6-monthly or annually	Minimum of two years (would recommend to keep longer if able to)
In service inspections tests	Until the next report is made (would recommend to keep four reports)
Prior to use checks	Record on job sheet/running record and keep as per operational procedures

References:

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998
 Safe Use of Lifting Equipment **ACOP L113**
 Thorough examination of lifting equipment **Guidance INDG422**

Further information can be obtained from the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk