

# Lifting Equipment

- Testing
- Inspection
- Certification



For all organisations which use lifting equipment there is a responsibility to manage, control and reduce risks associated with the use of this equipment. As a business Lifting Gear Direct have extensive experience of the testing, inspection and certification of lifting equipment and bring this knowledge into this comprehensive infographic on the topic.

## Lifting equipment inspections

Organisations which use faulty or untested lifting equipment are exposing employees to dangerous work conditions. All lifting equipment in active use needs to be inspected on a regular basis to prove it is safe and suitable for use. Inspections will be beneficial to the organisation, the equipment itself and all employees using the equipment.

In the UK, the prevailing guidance is LOLER (an abbreviation for Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations, 1998).

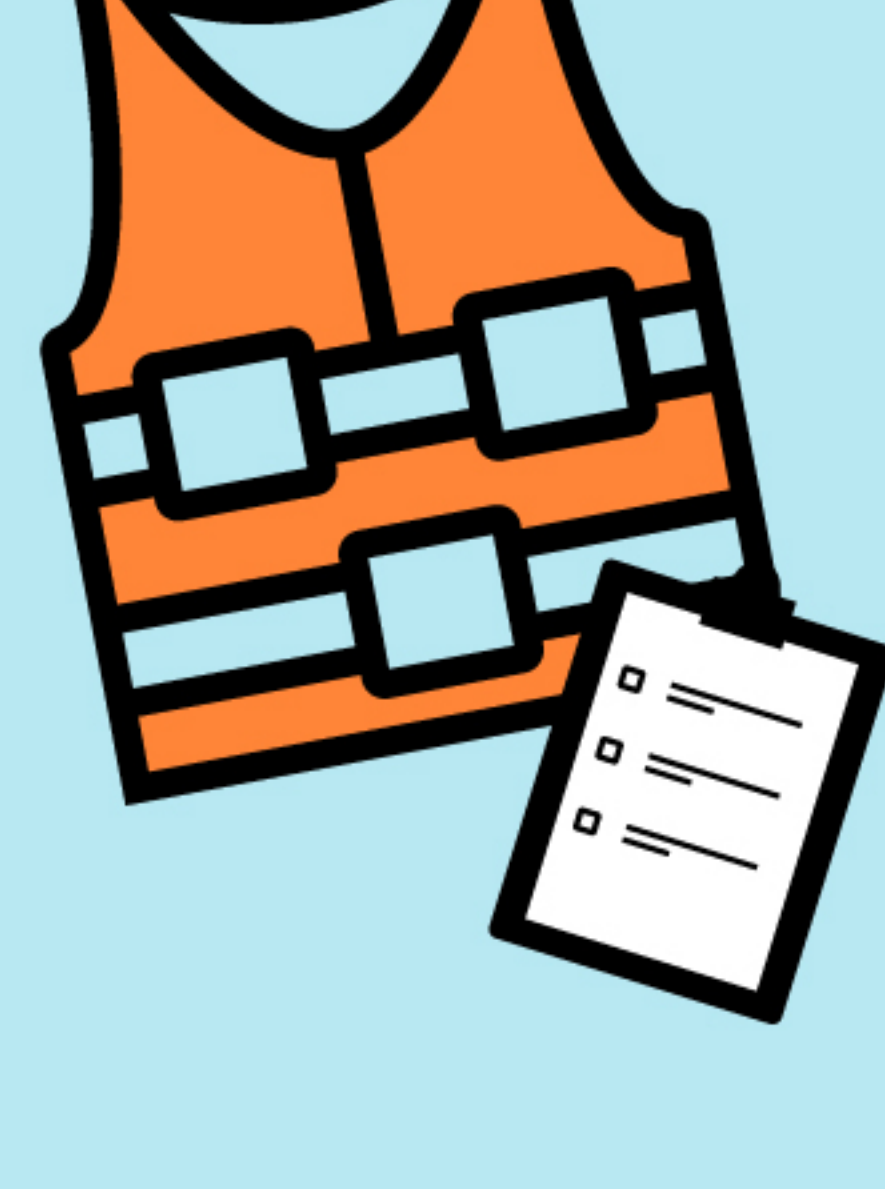


## What are the LOLER regulations?

Usually abbreviated to LOLER the regulations cover the lifting of goods and people at work. Lifting Gear Direct is a site devoted to the supply of lifting equipment, so the primary focus of this infographic will be the lifting of goods.

LOLER is applied in conjunction with PUWER (Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998). Both LOLER and PUWER form part of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. This is binding legislation on all UK organisations.

LOLER specifies mandatory intervals for the formal inspection of lifting equipment, these are defined in Regulation 9 of LOLER (Thorough examination and inspection) as:



Icon	Interval	Notes
	Lifting equipment (covered by PUWER) <b>12 Months</b>	
	Lifting Accessories (eyebolts, hooks, ropes, shackles, slings, etc.) <b>6 Months</b>	
	A competent independent person may determine different more frequent timescales for very actively used equipment	
	New equipment or equipment which is less than 12 months old – New equipment with a valid EC Declaration of conformity will not need an inspection until the 12-month period has expired	
	Exceptional circumstances – Where these arise, the competent person is likely to recommend an inspection earlier than the mandatory interval	

## Organisational obligations

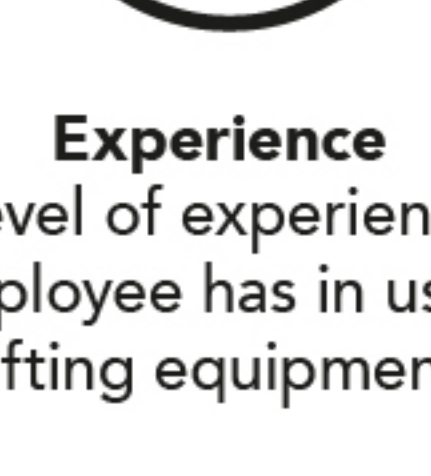
Prior to inspection and as a part of the safe use of lifting equipment there are certain obligations upon employing organisations.

**Employee training** – All employees using lifting equipment must be suitably trained:

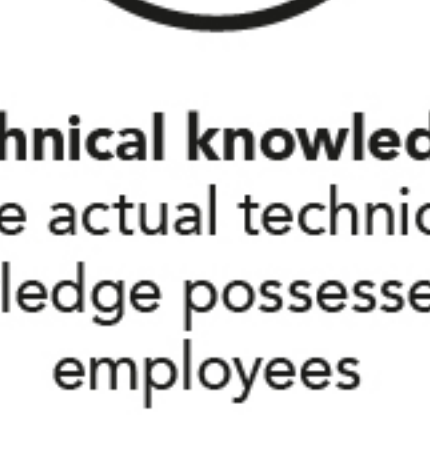


**Pre-use inspection** - All personnel using lifting equipment and accessories must complete a pre-use inspection before the use of said items of equipment

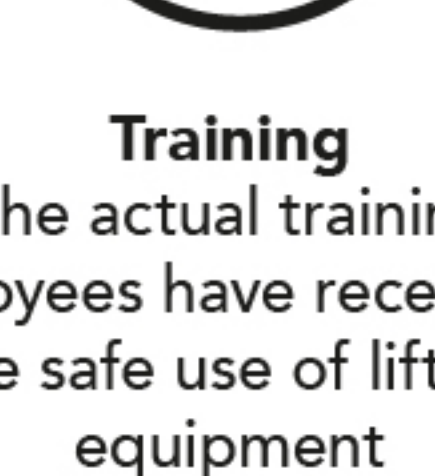
**Competent person** – All employees must be deemed “competent”. There are three parts to determining competence:



**Experience**  
The level of experience the employee has in using lifting equipment

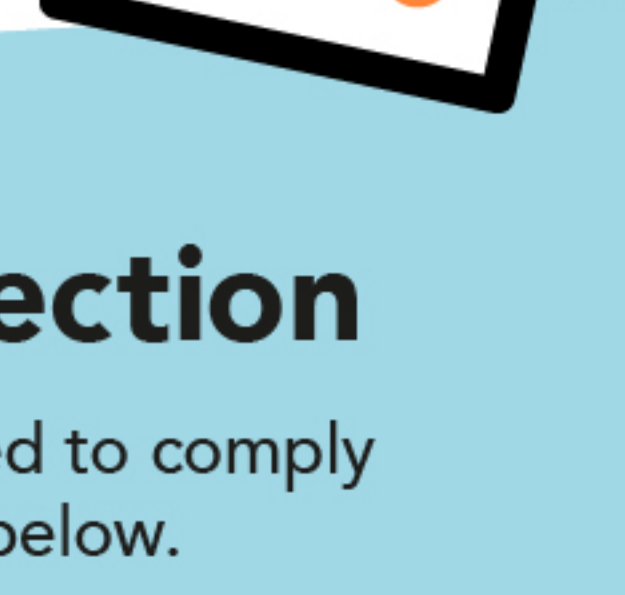


**Technical knowledge**  
The actual technical knowledge possessed by employees



**Training**  
The actual training employees have received in the safe use of lifting equipment

**Awareness of manufacturer’s instructions** – All employees need full awareness of manufacturers instructions relating to the appropriate and safe use of the related lifting equipment



## Lifting equipment inspection

There are numerous areas of inspection required to comply with LOLER, we have summarised these below.

**All lifting equipment must be safe and suitable for purpose:**

LOLER stipulates that equipment must be safe to use, this includes:



### Installation:

**After installation** – Equipment is thoroughly examined by a competent person to verify it is suitable for use

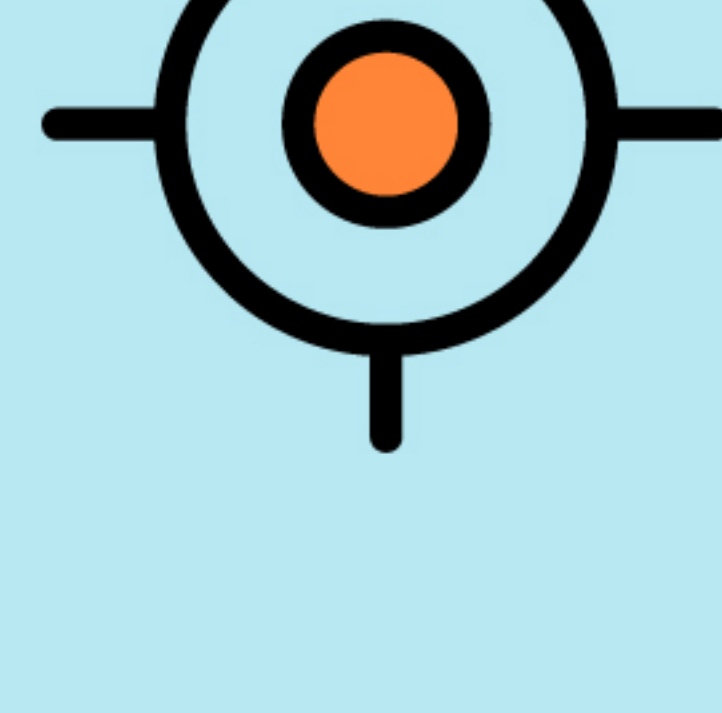
**Equipment relocation** – When equipment is relocated it will be thoroughly examined by a competent person

**Loads** – It is verified that loads are unable to drift, cannot fall freely and are not prone to unintentional release

### Positioning:

**Minimise danger to people** – It must be ensured that lifting equipment and loads are positioned so as not to endanger people

**Reduced risk of falls** – The equipment is positioned to reduce the risk of people falling (e.g. down hoist ways or shafts)



### Strength & Stability:

**Attachments/accessories** - Any attachments and accessories in use need to be of adequate strength and stability to endure any loads

**Lifting equipment** – The core equipment must be suitable and of an adequate strength and stability to endure all loads

**Mounting / fixing points** – A weak point on lifting equipment can be the mounting / fixing points, these need to be tested for stresses and verified as being able to endure desired loads

### Safe working load (SWL):

**The SWL must clearly be marked on all lifting equipment** – This extends to beams and accessories such as magnets

The SWL needs to be carefully determined and will depend on a range of factors such as configuration and the accessories which are in use



## All equipment must be maintained in a safe condition

LOLER stipulates that equipment must be maintained in a safe condition, this includes:



**Competent person**  
All inspections within an organisation are to be completed by a “competent person”

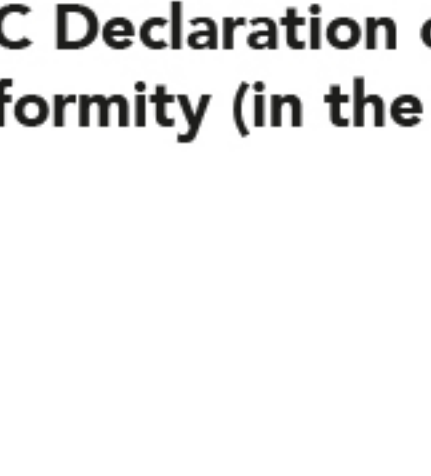


**Recommended intervals**  
(See above) – Equipment and accessories must be inspected to LOLER recommended intervals

## Lifting equipment certification

Following test and inspection the work completed is verified through lifting equipment certification, organisations will be in possession of the following:

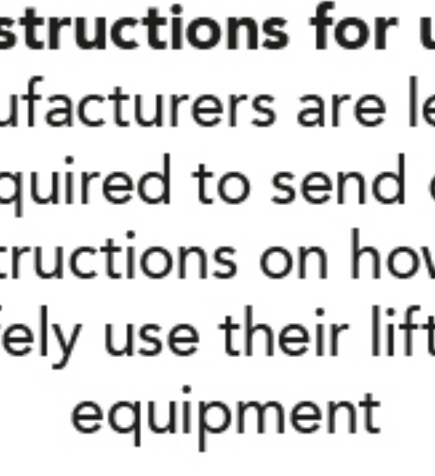
### Manufacturer related documentation:



**EC Declaration of conformity (in the EU)**



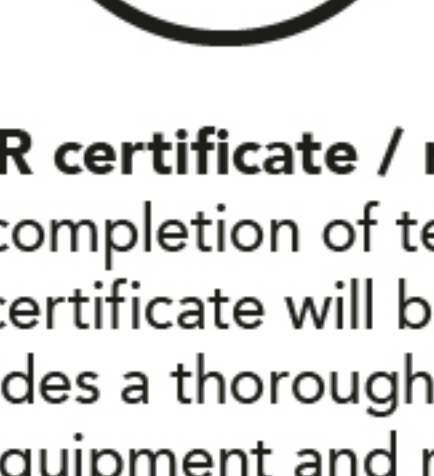
**A Manufacturers certificate**



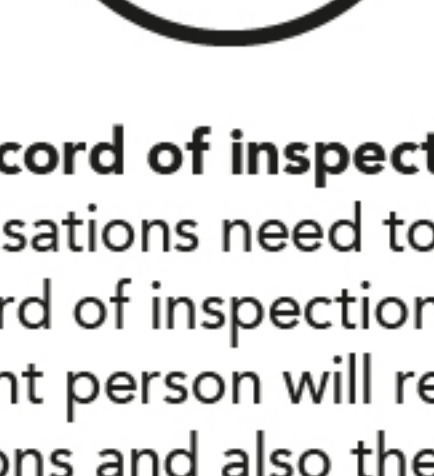
**Instructions for use**

manufacturers are legally required to send out instructions on how to safely use their lifting equipment

### Organisation documentation:



**LOLER certificate / report**  
Upon completion of testing a LOLER certificate will be issued, this provides a thorough report of the equipment and makes recommendations for any repairs required



**Record of inspection**  
Organisations need to keep a record of inspection. The competent person will record past inspections and also the date the next inspection is due

## Contacting Lifting Gear Direct to Discuss Lifting Equipment Testing, Inspection and Certification

We hope you have enjoyed this infographic and that it will help your organisation fully comply with the testing, inspection and certification of your lifting equipment. Here at Lifting Gear Direct we provide a range of associated services [1] to keep your lifting equipment in safe operation across the UK.

Call 01384 76961 today to discuss your requirements and to order your lifting gear inspection services.