

## The Legislation

The key piece of legislation concerning cranes and lifting equipment is LOLER - The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. These regulations apply to all work equipment that has a lifting function, they apply in addition to The Provision & Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER98), and aim to offer safeguards to people working with lifting equipment. The user is required to:

Use a competent person to plan lifting operations

Ensure that the equipment is suitable

Ensure that the lifting operation will not endanger people in the vicinity

Assess requirements for inspections of lifting equipment and accessories

Have regular inspections carried out by a suitably competent person  
Note that LOLER applies not only to the equipment itself, but also to the safe operation of the equipment.

## Timing of Inspections

Inspections must be carried out:

Before equipment is actually put into service, (unless it has a Declaration of Conformity less than twelve months old)

Immediately following installation (if safe operation depends on correct installation)

Where equipment operates in conditions which could cause deterioration

after an exceptional event(e.g. an accident)

## Frequency of Inspections

LOLER allows inspections to be undertaken either in accordance with an 'Examination Scheme' or at the following predetermined intervals:

Lifting equipment which lifts people	6 months
Lifting Accessories including shackles, hooks, chains, fittings etc.	6 months
All other lifting equipment, including cranes and loading equipment.	12 months

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