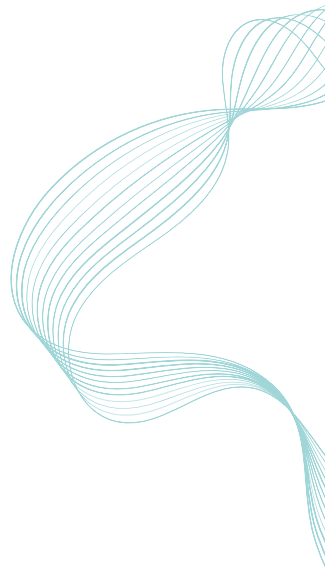




GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

GUIDELINES FOR LIFTING OF PERSONS USING CRANES

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It is not uncommon, especially in the construction industry, to witness the lifting of workers by a crane with the use of a lifting cage. Since the majority of cranes are designed for lifting loads, this operation should only be carried out if the crane is specifically designed to also lift persons. However, the regulations allow for an exemption in the case of exceptional circumstances when it is not feasible to perform the required work by less hazardous methods or equipment.



Photo: <https://www.safeworkmethodstatements.com/swms/construction/craneworkbox-0-detail>

LEGISLATION

This is an excerpt from Subsidiary Legislation 424.35, Work Equipment (Minimum Safety and Health Requirements) Regulations (L.N. 293 of 2016)

SCHEDULE I: MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE USE OF WORK EQUIPMENT

4.3. Persons may be lifted only by means of work equipment and accessories provided for this purpose.

Without prejudice to the Act and the General Provisions Regulations, exceptionally, work equipment which is not specifically designed for the purpose of lifting persons may be used to this effect, provided appropriate action has been taken to ensure safety in accordance with national legislation and, or practice laying down appropriate supervision.

While workers are on work equipment designed for lifting loads the control position must be manned at all times. Persons being lifted must have reliable means of communication. In the event of danger, there must be reliable means of evacuating them.

Available at: <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/424.35/eng/pdf>



The above requirement in the regulations specifies that lifting of persons with equipment which is not designed for this purpose, for example cranes that are designed for lifting loads, can only be done **in exceptional circumstances and by taking appropriate measures**. An exceptional circumstance is one where it can be proven that no other safer means of lifting persons can be used. In the case of cranes and lifting attachments to be used for lifting persons, the examinations by the competent person are carried out every six months.

A '**competent person**' is a person possessing adequate qualifications, suitable training and sufficient knowledge, experience and skill for the safe performance of the specific task or work required.

DUTIES OF EMPLOYERS

This is a **non-exhaustive** list of requirements that have to be fulfilled by the employer:

- Preparation of a site-specific risk assessment for the particular lift by a competent person,
- Copy of the risk assessment to be available on site,
- Valid examination report of the crane by a competent person, available on site,
- Valid examination report of the cage and attachments, by a competent person, available on site,
- The crane controls must be manned at all times during the lift,
- Ensure reliable and effective means of communication between the workers being lifted and the crane operator,
- Preparation of a lifting plan, including reliable means of evacuating the workers being lifted in case of emergency,
- Ensure that both the crane operator and the workers to be lifted are adequately trained for the job,
- Ensure effective control of pedestrian routes and traffic if there exists a possibility of vehicular impact.



RISK ASSESSMENT

The Risk Assessment must include, at least:

- a brief description of the work (including location, identification of crane and cage),
- the number of workers to be lifted,
- method of attachment of the cage to the crane's hook,
- personal protective equipment,
- anchorage points, and
- a declaration that the work cannot be carried out by any other safer means.



Risk Assessment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elimination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering Control
<input type="checkbox"/>	Admin Control
<input type="checkbox"/>	PPE

It is recommended that a written risk assessment is drawn up, taking into consideration the specific circumstances and environment of the work activity. The risk assessment must be communicated to the workers in a manner that they understand. The employer, or self employed person, is obliged to ensure that the control measures identified in the risk assessment are implemented.

Employees must be provided with clear instructions on the preventive and protective measures to be implemented onsite so that they can work safely and take the necessary steps to protect themselves from hazards.



On the other hand, workers must cooperate with the employer in implementing the safety measures, use the equipment for its intended use and safeguard their own health and safety and that of other persons who can be affected by their actions or omissions at

work, in accordance with the training and instructions given by the employer.



The cage shall be equipped with the necessary attachments and markings, including the safe working load, weight and an identifiable serial number.

The crane should be equipped with an anti-two-block system that prevents the crane block from coming in contact with the jib.

It is important to identify the best location of the crane, verify the stability of the ground and ensure that there are no adverse weather conditions.

The crane must not travel with the suspended cage.



Photo: <http://www.liftinglogic.com/man-baskets.htm>

REGULATIONS ON WORK EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Lifting equipment used at the workplace falls under the provisions of Schedule III of the Work Equipment (Minimum Safety and Health Requirements) Regulations S.L. 424.35.



The **employer** (that is the person whose employee operates the crane or the self-employed person operating the crane) must ensure that this equipment, including the crane, slings, cage, chains and other attachments, is **examined by a competent person** as required by the Work Equipment Regulations, S.L. 424.35.

A **copy of the examination report** shall accompany the equipment at the workplace where it is being used and it shall be kept available for inspection.



The **employer** must ensure that the operator has received adequate training, is fully competent to carry out his duties and is supervised to ensure the safe use of the crane and its attachments. The use of such work equipment must be restricted to those persons given the task of using it, since it is likely to involve a specific risk.

CONSTRUCTION SITES

When this type of equipment is used in construction sites, the specific requirements of the Work Place (Minimum Health and Safety Requirements for Work at Construction Sites) Regulations, S.L.424.36 (L.N. 88/2018) [1] also apply.

The **project supervisor** [2] must ensure that the health and safety plan contains

the plan for performing this work and that this is communicated and understood by all contractors concerned.

The **contractor/s** must take into account directions from the project supervisor.

The **client** [3] must take account of any report given in writing by the project supervisor and must also take all reasonable measures to ensure that duty holders abide by their obligations within the limits of their respective responsibilities for the adequate safeguard of occupational health and safety.

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[1] Available at: <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/424.36/eng/pdf>

[2] The Project Supervisor is the natural or legal person appointed by the Client in terms of regulation 3 of the Work Place (Minimum Health and Safety Requirements for Work at Construction Sites), S.L.424.36 (ibid.). The project supervisor is responsible for the health and safety supervision of the project.

[3] The Client is the natural or legal person for whom a project is carried out, i.e., the owner of the site. (ibid).





REFERENCES AND SOURCES

<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/9485/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/lift-persons.htm>

<https://www.safeworkmethodstatements.com/swms/construction/craneworkbox-0-detail>

<http://www.liftinglogic.com/man-baskets.htm>

FURTHER INFORMATION

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