Internal Use

SSOW 36: Erection of Lighting Columns Using HIAB Lorry Loader

Issue Number: 01 Date of Issue: 11/06/2026 Based on: RA97

PURPOSE

To ensure lighting column lifting, positioning and securing operations are carried out safely and in a controlled manner, preventing overturning, load instability, crush injuries, equipment failure, and harm to personnel or property. This SSOW supports RA97 and RA25 and must be followed by all personnel involved in the task. Work shall be completed in accordance with Fabrikat Indicative Foundation Advice document.

PPE REQUIREMENTS

For this activity, the following PPE must be worn

					
☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐
High-vis Vest / Jacket (BS EN 471)	Safety Boots (EN ISO 20345:2011) (S3)	Safety Gloves (Cut resistant) (EN 420:2003	Safety Helmet (EN 397:1995)	N/A	N/A

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Only CPCS/NPORS/ALLMI-competent HIAB operators and competent fitters may carry out this task.
- Personnel must have completed Lynch Driver Induction and be familiar with RA25, RA97 and this SSOW.
- Operators must understand emergency stop and emergency-lowering procedures.
- Personnel must be briefed on site-specific rules, emergency arrangements, exclusion zones and communication methods.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- 64T HIAB lorry loader with valid LOLER Thorough Examination
- Certified lifting accessories (straps, shackles, tag lines) with valid 6-month LOLER
- Spreader pads for stabiliser legs
- Barriers or cones to establish exclusion zones
- Spill kit for hydraulic leaks

SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

Pre-Start Requirements

- Review RA97 and SSOW prior to starting work.
- Confirm both personnel are present — no lone working permitted.
- Inspect work area for hazards, including ground conditions, obstructions, weather and traffic.
- Confirm no overhead or underground services are present.
- Establish and barrier off the exclusion zone.
- Confirm emergency arrangements: muster point, first aid, AED, emergency contacts.
- Inspect lighting columns for damage before lifting.

HIAB Pre-Use Checks

- Complete daily HIAB checks: hydraulics, hoses, boom sections, slew ring, stabilisers, safety devices.
- Check lifting accessories for cuts, fraying, contamination, missing stitching or damaged tags.
- Confirm LOLER certification is in date for both HIAB and lifting accessories.
- Any defect found, HIAB is taken out of service immediately.

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Setting Up the HIAB

- Position HIAB on firm, level ground with adequate bearing capacity.
- Deploy stabilisers fully with spreader pads; legs extended symmetrically.
- Check stabiliser feet are seated correctly and not sinking.
- Ensure operator has full visibility of the lifting area.
- Confirm exclusion zone is clear before lifting.

Lifting the Lighting Columns

- Use certified straps and tag lines.
- Sling column correctly, ensuring sling angle does not overload straps.
- Make a controlled test lift to confirm balance and sling security.
- Lift slowly and smoothly, no jerky movements or shock loading.
- Maintain tag line control at all times to prevent rotation or swing.
- No personnel beneath the suspended load or within slewing radius.
- Stop immediately if load swings excessively or visibility is lost.

Positioning Columns into Root Foundations

- Root foundations must be visually checked for correct depth, diameter, condition and drainage fall.
- Fitter uses tag lines only; no hands under the load.
- HIAB holds column vertical until fitter confirms alignment.
- Column must not be released until stable.
- If column becomes unstable, operator must immediately re-secure using HIAB.

Securing Columns

- Pea gravel placed in 150mm layers and compacted to prevent rotation.
- Ensure column remains plumb during backfilling.
- Avoid striking or damaging the galvanised root section.
- Report any coating damage immediately for repair before any electrical work is completed.

Working Around Moving Plant

- Maintain exclusion zone at all times.
- Operator to conform fitter's location before slewing or booming down.
- Stop work if anyone enters the red zone.

Weather Controls

- No lifting in high winds (per HIAB manual and CPA guidance).
- Stop work if wind increases, visibility reduces or weather deteriorates.
- Lower load to ground and suspend operations if conditions become unsafe.

Emergency Situations

- Operator must know how to activate emergency stop and emergency-lowering functions.
- In the event of entrapment or crush risk, operator must immediately stop all movement and stabilise the load.
- If column begins to fall or becomes unstable, personnel must retreat to a safe distance and allow operator to control or lower the load.

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- Hydraulic leaks must be contained using spill kits.
- Emergency services contacted immediately if required.
- Site emergency procedures must be followed at all times.

Completion of Work

- Ensure column is fully secured before removing HIAB support.
- Remove barriers only when area is safe.
- Stow HIAB correctly before moving the vehicle.
- Report any defects, incidents or near misses to the Site Manager and HSQE Team.
- Ensure lifting accessories are cleaned, inspected and stored correctly.

IDENTIFIED RISKS

The SSOW above has been compiled after identifying the following risks from this activity

- Overturning of the HIAB due to excessive loads, incorrect radius, or unstable ground
- Crush injuries or collision between the column, personnel, or nearby plant/vehicles
- Failure of the HIAB crane, hydraulic system, or stabilisers
- Failure of lifting accessories (straps, shackles, tag lines)
- Load swing or uncontrolled rotation during manoeuvre
- Striking fixed structures or other plant / vehicles
- Plant and vehicle movements within or near the work area
- Electrocution from contact with overhead power lines or electrical infrastructure
- Striking overhead structures (gantries, canopies, lighting, building edges)
- Slips, trips and falls due to weather, uneven ground or poor housekeeping
- Instability of the lighting column prior to securing and backfilling
- Emergency situations including entrapment, collapse, hydraulic leaks or fire

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO RISK ASSESSMENT RA25 + RA97