

SSOW 10: USE OF HIABS

Issue Number: 02

Date of Issue: 31/01/2026

Based on: RA25

PURPOSE

To ensure Hiab lifting operations are carried out safely and in a controlled manner, preventing vehicle overturn, load instability, contact with overhead power lines, and harm to personnel or property. This SSOW sets out the safe working practices, competency requirements, and equipment standards required to operate lorry-mounted cranes in accordance with RA25, legal obligations, and site-specific rules.

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

- Valid CPCS Lorry Loader card or ALLMI-approved Hiab competency.
- Correct category driving licence for the vehicle being operated.
- Lynch Driver Induction, including lifting SSOW and Transport Safety Manual.
- Familiarity with site-specific rules, lift plans, and exclusion zones.
- Competence in using slings, chains, lifting tackle, and securing equipment.
- Awareness of overhead power cable hazards (GS6).
- Understanding of emergency stop procedures and safe isolation of the crane.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Hiab-equipped vehicle suitable for the load and task.
- Certified lifting accessories (slings, chains, hooks, shackles) with valid LOLER certification.
- Spreader pads for stabiliser legs.
- Barriers or cones to establish exclusion zones.
- Communication device for coordination with site personnel.
- Warning beacons and reversing alarms fitted and functional.

SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

- All drivers have a valid CPCS card for lorry loaders, or other valid competency. i.e., ALLMI
- All drivers are to have a valid and correct category driving license for the vehicle they are operating.
- Follow SSOW for lifting as per Lynch Driver Induction Pack and transport safety manual.
- Always operate lorry and crane in accordance with the manufacturers recommended safe procedures, loads and limits.
- Correct PPE must be worn at all times as set out according to Lynch and site-specific rules.
- Warning beacons are fitted to all vehicles.
- Reversing beeper fitted to all vehicles.
- Mechanical maintenance is only to be carried out by authorised personnel.
- Drivers are to ensure that the vehicle crane is adequately greased at all times.
- Hiab's only to operate on firm, level ground, away from site excavations, slopes and inclines.
- If unsure of ground conditions, adequate spreader pads under the feet should be used to prevent them sinking into soft ground and to protect the surface.

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- Ensure landing areas are level and free of obstruction.
- Never use the Hiab unless the stabiliser beams and legs are correctly deployed.
- Stabiliser feet should be positioned touching the ground but not taking the full weight of the vehicle.
- Check positioning prior to handling each load as these may need to be readjusted as the vehicle is loaded/unloaded.
- Keep unauthorised personnel away from lorry when carrying out any operations with the Hiab crane.
- Never work directly underneath overhead power cables.
- Never work within 9m horizontally of overhead power cables supported on wooden poles.
- Never work within 15m horizontally of overhead power cables supported on steel pylons or structures.
- Always follow safe systems of work and routes provided on construction sites when driving under overhead power cables. i.e., powered off routes
- Keep hands clear of pinch points and crush zones on vehicle and crane.
- Never exceed the lifting capacity, always work within the safe working load.
- When loading / unloading, the driver is to extend the stabiliser legs and ensure that the feet are lowered and seated correctly on to the pads provided.
- Always inspect the crane and lifting accessories prior to commencing.
- Thorough examination conducted on vehicle and crane lifting accessories in accordance with LOLER 1998.
- All Lynch transport drivers must report to the site security/office on arrival at any customer site and await further instruction before continuing (site escort may be required).
- Site manager or supervisor must be liaised with and all SSOW method statements and agreed lift plans in place prior to commencing.
- Work area to be cordoned off and pedestrian, plant and vehicle traffic diverted away from the work area.
- Any loose items that are on top of or inside a load to be lifted will be removed or secured before the lift commences.
- All tools and other items inside containers to be cleared or secured by site prior to commencing.
- All work must be managed, supervised and instructed by site; any new hazards identified or that may occur on the day of work must be risk assessed by site before any work commences and notified to persons who perform the task.
- Crane support legs must be deployed before any lift can commence.
- If crane support legs cannot be deployed due to site restrictions, the appointed person and line manager must be informed.
- Ensure that slings and lifting tackle are of adequate capacity to handle the loads to be lifted.
- Always inspect the slings and lifting tackle before and after use. Do not use if faulty.
- Always position the lifting hook or clamp over the centre of gravity of the load.
- Always make a test lift to ensure the load is correctly slung.
- Never lower loads directly onto the slings, use suitable packing as spacers.
- Operate all controls smoothly and gently, avoiding harsh jerky movements that will shock the load and machine.
- When lifting large loads in windy conditions, always consider the effects this will have on the load.
- Never move the vehicle at any time whilst a load is suspended from the HIAB.
- Do not use the HIAB to drag loads.
- All lifting should be done in accordance with HIAB operator training.
- If you are ever unsure of a lift, contact your line manager prior to commencing the lift.
- The crane is to be correctly stowed away before the vehicle goes on to the highway.

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IDENTIFIED RISKS

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

- Overturn of vehicle during Hiab operations due to excessive loads or unstable ground
- Crushing / collision between load, personnel, or site vehicles
- Failure of Hiab crane
- Falls from height
- Tools or materials falling from a working platform, containers or the structure
- Plant and vehicle movements
- Electrocution from contact with overhead cables.
- Bridge strikes or striking overhead structures.
- Electricity and/or overhead powerlines

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO RISK ASSESSMENT RA25

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