

**GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**  
(Ministry of Maritime Affairs)



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## **Shipping Information Notice – 017**

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To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers and Classification Societies

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### **Requirements for Lifting Equipment Inspection and Certification**

Following a recent fatality onboard a Gibraltar registered vessel involving the failure of a hatch cover gantry crane, a preliminary investigation has highlighted the possible need to remind owners and managers of Gibraltar vessels of the requirements with regard to lifting operations and lifting equipment maintenance, inspection, test and certification.

Gibraltar vessels are required to comply with the UK Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment) Regulations 2006, guidance on this regulation is provided by the UK Marine Guidance Note MGN 332 (M+F).

These regulations place certain duties on vessel operators and managers with regard to lifting operations and lifting equipment maintenance, inspection, test and certification and the following highlights some of these requirements.

Companies should note that during attendance onboard Gibraltar vessels and also during safety management audits at company premises surveyors from this department will examine the procedures for lifting appliance maintenance, inspection and certification.

**Definition of Lifting Equipment** – ‘lifting equipment’ means work equipment used for lifting or lowering loads. This definition therefore includes all lifting appliances onboard a vessel not only the lifting appliances used for cargo operations. Lifting appliances such as hatch cover gantry cranes, provision and stores cranes, engine room overhead travelling cranes, life raft and rescue boat davits, hose handling cranes etc. are therefore required to comply with the requirements of the regulations.

**Regular Maintenance** – all parts of lifting equipment should be subject to regular preventative maintenance, particular attention should be paid to the condition of wire ropes, which if not in constant use should be checked at least monthly and also observed during operation. The regular inspection of wire ropes should include amongst other factors an examination for broken wires, corrosion, kinks, abrasion and fatigue fracturing in way of sheaves and blocks and a reduction in the wire diameter.

**Wire Rope Precautions** – the premature wear of a wire rope in a localised spot such as a sheave or drum is a common occurrence. This problem should be noted by the regular inspection of the wire rope as part of the preventative maintenance system. The regular moving of the rope away from the wear point may reduce the problem or alternatively another option may be to reverse the rope.

**Organisation of Lifting operations** – every lifting operation is required to be properly planned, appropriately supervised and carried out in a safe manner, only persons trained and competent to do so shall operate any lifting appliance. All training of persons to operate lifting appliances should include an appreciation of the relevant section of the UK Code for Safe Working Practices.

**Thorough Examination and Inspection** – all lifting appliances not certified for lifting persons are required to be thoroughly examined by a competent person at least every 12 months to ensure that health and safety are maintained and that any deterioration can be detected and remedied in good time. A competent person is defined as a person possessing the knowledge or experience necessary to enable them to satisfactorily perform the duties under the regulation. It is essential that the competent person is sufficiently independent and impartial to allow objective decisions to be made.

All loose gear (accessories for lifting) defined as any gear by means of which a load can be attached to lifting equipment shall not be used unless it has been thoroughly examined by a competent person within the 12 months immediately prior to such use. The established practice being for all loose gear to be thoroughly examined at the same time as the thorough examination of the lifting appliance.

**Testing** – all ships lifting equipment is required to be suitably tested by a competent person every five years, following which the competent person will thoroughly examine the equipment and any associated loose gear before certifying the equipment for continued use. No lifting appliance is to be used unless this test has been satisfactorily carried out within the preceding five years.

**Records of Lifting Equipment** – all Gibraltar vessels are required to maintain a Register of Lifting Appliances and Loose Gear in the form based upon the model recommended by the International Labour Organisation, an example is shown in the UK Code of Safe Working Practices.

Records of all thorough examinations and tests by a competent person should be maintained in the Register of Lifting Appliances and Loose Gear.

Gibraltar Maritime Administration  
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