



NRAG GUIDANCE - RIGGING FROM POINTS PROVIDED BY A VENUE

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This guidance is to assist riggers intending to use rigging points that are provided by a venue.

For the purposes of this document rigging points are defined as either:

1. The structure of any type of building or attachments to it used to anchor lifting equipment, or
2. Attachments for suspending equipment (i.e. there is to be no lifting device attached to them).

1. Rigging points for lifting*

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) apply to anything attached to a building structure that provides a rigging point for lifting equipment. The venue must have available a current 'Report of Thorough Examination' for each rigging point used for lifting.

Such a report must be dated within the previous 12 months or in accordance with a 'Written scheme of Thorough Examination' in accordance with LOLER Reg 9.

**Lifting equipment is defined as "work equipment for lifting or lowering loads, including its attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting it".*

Each rigging point for lifting must have:

- a clear declaration it can be used to anchor lifting equipment (as defined in LOLER)
- an indication that rigging points are suitable for **MANUAL** or **POWER** operated lifting equipment
- a Safe Working Load (SWL) marked or means provided to clearly establish its SWL
- an unambiguous identification mark on or next to it in situ

It is also helpful if the positions of rigging points are marked on a plan to facilitate locating them.

2. Rigging points for suspending equipment

If the rigging points provided are intended for the suspension of static loads they are not lifting equipment and must not be used to anchor lifting equipment devices.

Building structures fall outside the scope of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) but the following criteria are listed by HSE as requirements for work equipment which provides a good guide where eyebolts or similar fittings are provided. They should be:

- suitable for the intended use, safe for use and maintained in a safe condition
- inspected to ensure they remain correctly installed
- used only by people with adequate information, instruction and training

A rigging point may be an eyebolt or other fitting fastened to the supporting structure which allow bars/tubes or trusses to be fixed directly to them. Production equipment is then rigged to the bar or truss.

Each fixed rigging point should have an unambiguous identification mark and a SWL marked on it or that can be found on a drawing or plan of the venue readily available to those attaching equipment to the point.

Suspension grid systems should have loading information available to users showing the SWL of individual points or load tables giving allowable concurrent load patterns.

It is good practice for the venue to have an inspection regime and documents that clearly identify the rigging point(s), including their locations and SWL.

The general requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act (the Act) places duties on those providing premises and equipment for use by non-employees.

Sections 4 and 5 of the Workplace (Health, safety and welfare) Regs 1992 place duties on those with control over premises to ensure that which they provide is safe.

Duties when using venue rigging points:

Employers and the self-employed

- Have a duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of those in their employment and those affected by their business activity whom they do not employ. (Sections 2.3 and 4 of the Act). Venues providing premises are duty holders in this respect.
- Must appoint someone with the appropriate knowledge, skill and experience to plan lifting operations (Regulation 8, LOLER 1998).

Designers of rigging installations

If you design or specify rigging systems, you may be a designer under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM).

Designers should obtain authorisation from the venue to use the rigging points and check if they are provided for lifting or suspension. Refer to 1 and 2 on the previous page for appropriate requirements.

Designers must use the SWL quoted for the rigging point, not its proprietary component parts.

For example, an eyebolt may have a marked Working Load Limit (WLL) greater than the SWL of the rigging point.

Ensure the direction of the forces applied to the rigging point have been considered and are within any limitations of the point.

Planning the lifting operation

The rigging plan (lift plan) should address the risks identified in the risk assessment, the resources and procedures required and who the duty holders are for planning, supervising and carrying out the lifting operation, so that risks are managed and the lift is carried out safely. This means that loads are known and assessed, the correct equipment is used, and any changes made are reviewed so that a safe system of work can be maintained. The plan must consider all of the event or production including de-rigging and clearing site.

Rigging Supervisors

Frequently a rigger is employed only to rig a production on site and is not involved in the design and/or planning. This can mean essential rigging information is not made available until the installation starts.

The National Rigging Certificate assesses the competence required to realise an existing rigging plot.

Please read the Guidance Notes issued by NRAG regarding Roles and Responsibilities.

Ensure you have the venue information to hand when working on site.

Verify the rigging points you use against the documentation supplied before rigging starts.

Check you understand the rigging design and the rigging plot.

Follow the Rigging Plan and monitor the loads applied to the points in terms of force and direction.

Riggers

Make sure you follow instructions and that you are using the correct rigging points marked on the plot.

Check that the loads you apply are not greater than the SWL of the rigging points you are rigging to.

	Document	Reference
Standard	Technical Standards for Places of Entertainment	M1.01 and M1.09
	EN17206	8.3
	BS7906-1 (withdrawn but may still be used)	4.1, 5.2.2, 8.19.4, 8.23.5.1
	BS7905-1 (withdrawn but may still be used)	4.1, 5.5.1, 11.3, 11.4
	Temporary Demountable Structures, 4th edition	9.6 last paragraph
Codes of practice	ICoPER v2.0	1.21
	LEEA 'COPSULE'	Appendix 1.4.3