

LIFTING INTRODUCTION

We get so many questions around Rigging, we thought it was time to add in this editorial piece, brought to you by our Technical Sales Director and Head of Rigging - Barry Hudson.



“I have often been asked by people ‘What is a lifting accessory?’ or ‘What is a lifting operation?’.

According to the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 [LOLER], an “accessory for lifting” is work equipment for attaching loads to machinery for lifting.

To further simplify this statement, one of the instructors at the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association [LEEA] suggested that it can be looked at it in this way: If you have a crane – the lifting machine in this scenario – then anything used below the hook used to attach the load to it, is a lifting accessory. So examples are shackles, turnbuckles, round slings, chain slings and wire rope slings to name but a few. In most theatre settings the “hook” is a flying bar, so everything below it is a “lifting accessory” and everything above it is a component of the “lifting machine”.

A lifting operation is defined in the LOLER regulation as an operation concerned with the lifting or lowering of a load. It is therefore dynamic, as opposed to “suspension” which is static and outside the scope of LOLER.



Our special Hook Symbol

Within this catalogue we have added a hook symbol next to the products that can be used for lifting operations. These products will be supplied with instructions for use and either a Declaration of Conformity or a Report of Thorough Examination For New Products. Which certification is supplied is dependant on whether Flints hold the Technical File for the product. The Technical File contains the original specifications of the product and so we would typically only hold it for our own products.

There are many other products in the following sections of the catalogue that can be used for suspending loads that are not subject to dynamic movement. These products will show a minimum breaking load [MBL] or minimum recommended load [MRL], but do not require certification.

The LEEA Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment [COPSULE] states that lifting accessories should be specified by [although not necessarily actually ordered by] the “competent person” in charge of the lifting operation, which is the term used to describe a person with the necessary practical and theoretical knowledge, experience, training, skill, and ability to perform the specific duty. There could be several competent persons with specific duties relating to lifting items.

With our experienced and knowledgeable staff, we search for quality products to suit your needs and budgets. We are continually monitoring new products that come onto the market, so you can have faith that we will be providing quality equipment suited to your requirements.

We also have a strong splicing team at Flints, and can help you with everything from 3 or 4 strand fibre rope, to braided ropes, or even modern ropes such as Dyneema Pro.”

If you come across a new product you think we should stock, do let us know! You can scan this qr code to visit our handy form to register any new ideas:



A brief introduction to the new UKCA Marking



What is it?

Following Brexit, any goods being placed on the market in Great Britain, that is England, Wales and Scotland, will need to be marked with the new UK Conformity Assessed [UKCA] mark. It covers most goods which previously required the Conformité Européenne [CE] marking. However goods placed on the Northern Ireland market will continue to require the CE marking, or the new UKNI marking which Flints will not be using.

The technical requirements that must be met [and the conformity assessment processes and standards that can be used to demonstrate conformity] are largely the same as they were for the CE marking.

The goods will require a UK Declaration of Conformity.

When will we start seeing the UKCA marking?

The UKCA marking came into effect on 1st January 2021 but to allow businesses time to adjust to the new requirements, the CE mark may be used until 1st January 2022 in most cases.

The UKCA marking must be used from 1st January 2023.

Future use of markings in the UK:

From January 1st 2022, the CE marking will not be recognised in Great Britain.

However a product bearing the CE marking would still be valid for sale in the UK so long as it is also UKCA marked and complied with the relevant UK rules.

The EU:

Please note that the UKCA marking is not recognised on the EU market so products for the EU market will need the CE marking.

For products placed both in the EU and UK markets the product can bear both markings as long as they conform to the standards from both markets.

What changes will I see to Lifting Products like the scenery fittings?

Very few, except that most of our fittings will soon be supplied stamped with both the CE and UKCA markings.

For the latest **UK Government Guidance** on UKCA marking please scan this qr code to be taken to the following UK government web page:



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-ukca-marking>