



Safety Alert Number: **000029**

Issued on **September 18, 2023** by Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Hoists that are not-commercially manufactured

Legal information

Related compliance requirements:

[Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#), sections 1.11 and 1.12

[Occupational Safety General Regulations](#), sections 55, 56, 72, 73

Summary

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) officers have encountered homemade hoists being used in workplaces. The [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) require equipment and components to be used in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications. If there are no manufacturers' specifications, a Professional Engineer's certification is required.

Hoists are high-risk equipment that can kill or injure workers if they fail. Dropped objects can also result in damage to property and materials. In addition, there may be financial impacts.

If an Engineer has certified a hoist, they will provide design drawings that contain the Engineer's stamp. The stamp confirms the Engineer has approved the design and that the engineer is in good standing with the regulatory body that oversees the profession, Engineers Nova Scotia. The stamp must be signed by the Engineer. The Engineer will also provide written specifications outlining safety precautions for use of the hoisting equipment, including inspection requirements.



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Without a proper engineered design and assessment, the requirements for installation, and the safe working load (rated load) for the hoist are not known. Without this information, the hoisting equipment may be overloaded or inadequately anchored, placing employees at risk.

Employers must obtain a statement of the rated load, or safe working load, from the hoist manufacturer or an engineer. They must also post a legible statement of the rated load on the hoist, where the operator can see it, while operating the hoist. This includes any revised statements of the rated load, as the [Occupational Safety General Regulations](#) require load tests to be completed annually by a competent person, to monitor potential deterioration in the equipment.

Hoists often work as a system with rigging attachments to secure the load to the hoist. Improper selection of rigging equipment can also cause failure of the hoisting system. If the rigging equipment is designed to hold the same load as the hoist or a greater load than the hoist, the load limit of the hoist prevails as the maximum permissible load. If the rigging equipment has a lower rated load, the load rating for the rigging equipment prevails as the maximum load permissible.

The employer must ensure the hoist and rigging equipment is visually inspected by the operator before each use. Formal written inspection reports and statements of rated load should be kept for two (2) years.

There are additional requirements in the regulations that apply to the safe use of hoists. For more information refer to the legislation or the [Nova Safe](#) website.

Contact for bulletin queries

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