



## Operation & Maintenance Instructions

### Instructions for Safe Use

### Safelift Lifting Beams & Spreader Beams

**Certification** Safelift lifting beams, spreader beams and associated slings and shackles are lifting equipment for which the following regulations apply -

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 require the user to hold a current Report of Thorough Examination. This equipment requires thorough examination at least every 6 months. Rossendale Group issues a Report of Thorough Examination with every new Safelift lifting beam, spreader beam and associated slings and shackles and offers a re-examination service on site or in our works for the subsequent periodic examinations.

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 requires the user to hold a Declaration of Conformity. Rossendale Group issues a Declaration of Conformity with every new Safelift lifting beam, spreader beam and associated slings and shackles.

**Training** Operators of Safelift lifting beams, spreader beams and associated slings and shackles must be trained in the safe use of the equipment, as required by The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Rossendale Group provides training courses for lifting beams, spreader beams and other lifting equipment.

**Storage** Safelift lifting beams and spreader beams are supplied in either powder coated or painted finishes. Indoor storage is recommended, although outdoor storage is acceptable.

**Documents** Instructions for Safe Use and Operating Instructions for Safelift equipment are available at [www.rossendalegroup.co.uk](http://www.rossendalegroup.co.uk). Declarations of Conformity and Reports of Thorough Examination, including any ongoing periodic reports issued by Rossendale Group, are available at our SiteCert web site [www.sitecert.info/](http://www.sitecert.info/). Purchasers and users of Safelift equipment and Rossendale Group examination clients are issued with user name and password access to their certificates.

**SWL** The Safe Working Load of the Safelift lifting beams, spreader beams and associated slings and shackles is marked on the equipment. In certain circumstances the SWL may be derated. The user must not exceed the marked SWL.

**Selection** Safelift lifting beams, spreader beams and associated slings and shackles are available in a range of capacities, sizes and configurations. Select the equipment to be used and plan the lift taking into account the capacity, class of use and range of lift. Consult the supplier if the equipment is to be used in areas of high risk, exposed to the elements, water, steam etc, with hazardous substances, e.g. acids or chemicals, or subjected to extremes of temperature.

**Slings** Typically, Safelift lifting beams and spreader beams are designed for use with wire rope slings or chain slings. It is essential that the top ring or eye of the top sling sits comfortably in the hook of the crane. The user must be trained in the operation of the slings and must refer to Instructions for Safe Use of the slings and the sling Operation & Maintenance Instructions. The user is referred to Operation & Maintenance and Instructions for Safe Use for Safelift Wire Rope Slings RD452M and Operation & Maintenance and Instructions for Safe Use for Safelift Chain Slings RD451M.

## Shackles

Typically, Safelift lifting beams and spreader beams are designed for use with shackles. The user must be trained in the operation of the shackles and must refer to Instructions for Safe Use of shackles and the shackle Operation & Maintenance Instructions. The user is referred to Operation & Maintenance and Instructions for Safe Use for Safelift Shackles RD465M.

## Safe Use

This document is issued in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, amended March 1988. It outlines the care and safe use of chain slings and is based on Sections 5 of the LEEA Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment. It should be read in conjunction with the requirements for general purpose slinging practice, below, which form an integral part of these instructions. This information is of a general nature only covering the main points for the safe use of chain slings. It may be necessary to supplement this information for specific applications.



### ALWAYS

- Store and handle lifting beams correctly.
- Refer to the safe use instructions for slings and attachments used with the beam.
- Include the self weight of the beam and attachments when calculating the load imposed on the crane hook.
- Ensure the load will remain stable when lifted.
- Ensure that no one lifting point becomes overloaded by the slinging or handling methods.
- Use tag lines to control long loads.

### NEVER

- Use lifting beams to handle loads other than those for which they are designed.
- Fit lifting beams to a hook other than those for which they are designed.
- Use damaged or distorted lifting beams and attachments.
- Unevenly load lifting beams.
- Allow lifting beams to alter attitude during use.
- Allow lifting beams to foul the underside of the crane or any other obstructions in the area.

### SELECTING THE CORRECT LIFTING BEAM

Lifting beams, frames and spreaders are usually designed and built for a specific purpose. The range of designs and capacities is therefore only limited by practicality. Select the beam to be used and plan the lift taking the following into account:

Application requirements - to reduce headroom, provide multiple lift points, to provide adjustable lifting centres, to handle out of balance loads, to remove or control inward or crushing forces, to allow for special load attachments.

Capacity, both of the overall beam and of the individual lift points.

Accessories and attachments - slings, grabs, shackles, hooks, etc.

### STORING AND HANDLING LIFTING BEAMS

- Never return damaged lifting beams to storage. They should be clean and, where necessary, protected from corrosion.
- Lifting beams should be stored in a manner that will provide protection from damage whilst in store. Stands or packing should be provided where this is not built into the beam. Ensure the beam is stable and cannot topple over.

### USING LIFTING BEAMS SAFELY

- Lifting beams may incorporate various loose and detachable items of lifting gear. Refer to the separate requirements for the safe use of those items.
- Do not use defective or distorted beams or attachments.
- Lifting beams are generally designed for a specific purpose and should not be used for other purposes without consulting the supplier. This will include the size of crane hook from which they are suspended. On no account should lifting beams be suspended from unsuitable size hooks.
- The weight of the beam, together with its attachments, must be added to the weight of the load when calculating the total load that will be imposed on the crane hook.
- Ensure that the SWL on the individual lift points is not exceeded. Extra care is needed where these are adjustable.
- Ensure the load is stable and that the beam remains at its intended attitude during use. Particular care is needed when lifting and setting down as not only may the load become unstable but individual lift points may become overloaded.
- Use tag lines to control long loads.
- Do not allow the beam to foul the underside of the crane, or any other obstructions, when raising or transporting loads.
- Refer to the requirements of BS 7121: Part 1 when using beams with cranes in tandem.

### IN-SERVICE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

- Maintenance requirements are minimal for lifting beams. Ensure that bolted joints are sound and that corrosion damage is prevented. Refer to the individual maintenance requirements for associated loose gear and attachments.
- Regularly inspect lifting beams and, in the event of the following defects, refer the beam to a Competent Person for thorough examination: beam distorted, damaged or corroded; worn, loose or missing bolts; cracked welds; attachment points worn, damaged or distorted, holes and eyes worn or elongated; any other visible defects.

