

DALE

Instructions for the Safe Use of Hand Chain Blocks

The information in this document should be passed to the user of the equipment

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 HAND CHAIN BLOCKS and is based on Section 6 of the LEEA Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment.* It should be read in conjunction with the requirements for lifting appliances for general purposes, given overleaf, 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 hand chain blocks. It may be necessary to supplement this information for specific applications.

ALWAYS

- Store and handle chain blocks correctly.
- Inspect chain blocks and accessories before use and before placing into storage.
- For top hook suspension, use hooks that are fitted with safety catches, or mouse the hook, ensuring the support fits freely into the seat of the hook.
- For trolley suspension ensure the trolley is correctly set for the beam width.
- Check that the bottom hook will reach its lowest point without running the chain fully out.
- Adopt safe slinging practices and follow the instructions for the safe use of the equipment used.

NEVER

- Expose chain blocks to chemicals, particularly acids, without consulting the supplier.
- Replace the load chain with a longer one without consulting the supplier.
- Use undue effort to force the block to operate.
- Throw, drop or drag a chain block.
- Allow oil or grease to come into contact with the brake.
- Expose a chain block directly to the elements, water spray, steam etc without consulting the supplier.

SELECTING THE CORRECT BLOCK

Hand chain blocks are available in a range of capacities and with various types of suspension. Select the block to be used and plan the lift taking the following into account:

Type of suspension - hook, trolley etc.
Capacity, class of use and range of lift.

Chain blocks are designed for vertical lifting only.

Consult the supplier if the block is to be used in areas of high risk, exposed to the elements, water, steam etc, with hazardous substances, eg acids or chemicals, or subjected to extremes of temperature.

STORING AND HANDLING HAND CHAIN BLOCKS

- Never return damaged blocks to storage. They should be dry, clean and protected from corrosion.
- Store blocks by their top suspension with chains clear of the ground, the chains may be wrapped together to facilitate this.

Non-portable blocks stored outdoors should be covered and

protected from corrosion.

- Blocks should not be dropped, thrown or dragged across the floor.
- Never galvanise or subject the chain, or other load bearing parts, to any other plating process without the express approval of the supplier.

INSTALLING AND COMMISSIONING

- Follow any specific installation instructions issued by the supplier and the general requirements given overleaf. Try the block to ensure that it operates correctly and that the brake is effective. Ensure the chain is not twisted; it must move freely. The bottom hook must reach the lowest position required without the chain running fully out.

USING HAND CHAIN BLOCKS SAFELY

- Do not attempt lifting operations unless you understand the use of the equipment and the slinging procedures.
- Do not use defective blocks, slings or accessories and never use the block chain as a sling.
- Check the slinging arrangement, that the block is safely rigged and that chains are not twisted, particularly in the case of multifall blocks.
- Check the load is free to move before commencing and that the landing area has been prepared.
- Raise the load just clear, then halt the lift to check the integrity of the block, slinging method etc.
- Check the travel path is clear and that you have a clear view so as to avoid accidental hook engagement or collision. Follow any particular site safety rules applicable to the movement of suspended loads.
- Keep fingers, toes etc clear when lowering loads.
- Follow any specific maintenance instructions issued by the supplier but in particular keep load chains lubricated and check the operation of the brake. Brakes must be kept free of oil, grease etc. Never replace the load chain with a longer one without consulting the supplier.
- Regularly inspect the block and, in the event of the following defects, refer the block to a Competent Person for thorough examination: wear; damage to trolley, hooks and fittings; damaged or distorted slack end anchor; chains worn, bent, notched, stretched, corroded, do not hang freely, twisted or jump; load slips or will not lift; damaged block casing; illegible markings.

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Further information is given in:

HSE Guidance Note PM39 - Hydrogen Embrittlement of Grade T Chain

The Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment,

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