METHOD STATEMENT · UNITED KINGDOM · 2026

Lifting Operations Method Statement (LOLER)

UK template for a LOLER 1998 lifting plan — appointed person, SWL, ground bearing, exclusion zones, BS 7121.

A lifting operations method statement under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) is the document that turns a crane lift, telehandler lift, or other lifting operation into a planned, supervised, named-roles sequence. LOLER regulation 8 requires every lifting operation to be properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised, and carried out in a safe manner. The method statement is the primary written evidence that those three duties have been discharged.

Document structure a reviewer expects

1. **Lift category**
   BS 7121 lift classification — basic, intermediate or complex. Drives the level of planning and supervision required.
2. **Roles and competence**
   Appointed person (AP), crane supervisor, crane operator, slinger / signaller — names, CPCS / CITB cards, expiry dates.
3. **Load assessment**
   Weight, centre of gravity, attachment points, certification of the load if pre-fabricated.
4. **Lifting equipment selection**
   Crane make / model, capacity at lift radius (with derating for boom config), thorough examination certificate within 12 months.
5. **Slings and accessories**
   WLL of each sling / shackle / spreader, last inspection date, BS EN 13414 / 13889 compliance.
6. **Ground bearing assessment**
   Calculated outrigger / track loading (kN/m2), ground capacity (from GI or CBR), packing / mats / piled platform.
7. **Lift sequence**
   Step-by-step lift, slew, place and disconnect — including any taglines, secondary slings, multiple-lift coordination.
8. **Exclusion zone and communications**
   Zone radius, barriers, signage, signaller position, radio channel, GS6 proximity to power lines.
9. **Adverse conditions and stop criteria**
   Wind speed cut-off (typically 9–11 m/s for boom cranes, lower for large surface area loads), visibility, lightning, stop criteria.

Common reasons reviewers reject this document

- No Appointed Person (AP) named, or AP without recorded CPCS A61 / equivalent qualification.
- Ground bearing addressed in words ('ground is suitable') without calculated outrigger loading or measured bearing capacity.

- Crane capacity stated without derating for the actual boom configuration and lift radius.
- Sling WLLs and last inspection dates missing.
- Exclusion zone described without a stated radius or named responsible person.
- Wind speed cut-off omitted, or set above the crane manufacturer's stated maximum.
- Complex lift (multi-crane, blind, over occupied buildings) supervised by the operator with no separate crane supervisor.

UK regulation reference

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 SI 1998/2307

The statutory framework — planning, supervision, safe execution and thorough examination duties.
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1998/2307/contents/made

L113 — Safe use of lifting equipment (ACoP and guidance) HSE L113

Approved Code of Practice for LOLER — the benchmark reviewers use.
https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l113.htm

BS 7121 — Code of practice for safe use of cranes BS 7121

Operationalises LOLER for crane lifts; the source of the appointed person / supervisor / signaller roles.
https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/code-of-practice-for-safe-use-of-cranes-general

HSE GS6 — Avoiding danger from overhead power lines HSE GS6

Standard proximity distances for lifts and tall plant near overhead lines.
https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/gs6.htm

Frequently asked questions

When does LOLER require an Appointed Person?
BS 7121 — the UK code of practice operationalising LOLER — requires an Appointed Person for every lift involving a crane. The AP is responsible for the lift plan, equipment selection and supervision arrangements. For 'basic' lifts the AP may also be the supervisor; for 'complex' lifts the roles must be split.

What's a 'complex' lift under BS 7121?
A lift is complex where any of the following apply: more than one crane (tandem lift), blind lift (operator can't see the load), lift over occupied buildings or public areas, lift near live overhead power lines (within GS6 distances), or a lift with an unusual load (asymmetric, fragile, very high COG). Complex lifts require a written lift plan and a dedicated crane supervisor separate from the operator and AP.

How often must a crane be thoroughly examined under LOLER?
Every 12 months for lifting equipment that lifts people, and every 12 months for lifting accessories. Mobile cranes are typically examined every 12 months with quarterly inspections; tower cranes follow the manufacturer's regime. The thorough examination certificate must be available on site.

Do I need a lift plan for a telehandler attachment?
Yes if the telehandler is being used as a lifting machine (e.g. lifting a load on a chain with a hook attachment). LOLER and BS 7121 apply. Where it is used solely as a materials-handler (forks under a pallet, no slinging) the LOLER thorough examination duty still applies but a full BS 7121 lift plan is not normally required.

What wind speed should I stop at?
The crane manufacturer's stated maximum — typically in the operator's manual as a steady wind speed in m/s, with reductions for gust speed and for high-surface-area loads. Common values are around 9–11 m/s for boom cranes lifting normal loads, but the method statement must cite the manufacturer's figure rather than a generic number.

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