

Health and Safety Executive		Operational Circular	
		OC 234/16	
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Target Audience:
All HSE Inspectors

SAFE USE OF MAGNETIC LIFTING DEVICES

This 2-part OC provides guidance to Inspectors on the safe use of magnetic lifting devices. It has been prepared jointly with the Steel Stockholding Lead Authority Partnership (SSLAP), a tri-partite body comprising Wolverhampton CC, the National Association of Steel Stockholders (NASS) and the HSE. The UK Steel Association has also assisted in the preparation of the guidance. The [Information Document \(ID\)](#) may be copied and given to interested parties outside the HSE.

1 The programme of work agreed by the Steel Stockholding Lead Authority Partnership (SSLAP) included the publication of guidance on the safe use of magnetic lifting devices used widely not only in metal/component manufacture and storage but also in the breaking and scrap handling industries. Additionally, they can be found in other manufacturing industries, for example shipbuilding, for lifting and transporting steel and ferrous metal stock or components with magnetic properties.

2 The guidance in the Information Document provides advice to users and suppliers of magnetic lifting devices on reducing the risk of both injury to operators and other persons, and of damage to plant and equipment. It describes the hazards involved and some of the precautions that need to be considered when planning and carrying out handling activities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

3 If Inspectors require further information or technical support concerning this issue, they should contact their local Specialist Group (SG) in the first instance. Additional advice can be obtained from John Powell in the Manufacturing/Engineering Sector in Birmingham.

4 Further information on SLAPP and NASS can be found in [SIM 3/2002/16](#).

Cancellation of Instructions

5 FIC234/4 - **Cancel and destroy**

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