

G18. What are the employer's obligations when purchasing lifting equipment?

Employers must ensure that any lifting equipment they intend to purchase is:

1. Suitable for its intended purpose and for the conditions in which it will be used
2. Fully compliant with the relevant national supply legislation. (within the UK, the Supply of Machinery Regulations 2008)
3. Supplied with complete and valid supply documentation in accordance with the applicable national standards and legislation. This includes:
 - Manufacturer's Certificate or Statement of Conformity
 - Instructions for use (covering safe use, inspection and maintenance)
 - Other conformity declarations as required by national legislation (within the UK, a Declaration of Conformity)
4. Verify the equipment is appropriately marked in accordance with the applicable national standards and legislation. As a minimum, this should include:
 - A unique means of identification traceable to the associated documentation.
 - The working load limit (WLL) or safe working load (SWL).
 - Any additional markings required by the relevant standard or legislation (within the UK, UKCA or CE mark).

If the relevant documentation is not provided at the time of purchase, the employer will need to request this from their regional distributor or the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

For more detailed guidance on supply documentation, marking, and the development of instructions for use in accordance with UK and EU supply legislation, refer to:

- [LEEA 59 Series \(1-6\) Guidance to documentation and marking](#) – Available for Members
- [LEEA-062 Guidance to the Manufacturer of Lifting Equipment for the Development of Instructions for Use](#) – Available for Members

Additionally, for further UK specific advice, refer to:

- [HSE INDG271 – Buying New Machinery: A short guide to the law and your responsibilities when buying new machinery for use at work](#)

FAQ No:	G18	Approved By:	LEEA Technical Committee
Revision:	2	Date:	22/10/2025
Author:	HM	LEEA ICS Ref:	53.020
Date Published:	23/10/2025		

Please note: The content of the guidance in these frequently asked questions is provided for general information only. Whilst they are intended to represent a standard of good practice, they have no legal status and compliance with them does not exempt you from compliance with any legal requirements. Although we make reasonable efforts to provide accurate guidance, we make no representations, warranties or guarantees, whether express or implied, that the content of the guidance given in these frequently asked questions and our interpretation of the requirements given is accurate, complete or up-to-date. It is therefore responsibility of those with specific duties under the legislation to ensure that they fulfil the obligations imposed on them.

Lifting Equipment Engineers Association

3 Osprey Court
Hinchbrook Business Park
Huntingdon PE29 6FN
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1480 432801 • Email: mail@leeaint.com