



G32. Do lifting components that are to be incorporated into the load item require conformity assessment marking (i.e. pad eyes, ISO container pockets, one trip slings) etc.?

If a lifting component is manufactured and placed on the market (sold) or put into service (for own use) separately from the load item, it must undergo conformity assessment and bear the appropriate conformity marking.

The supply legislation in the UK and EU defines a lifting accessory as:

“lifting accessory means a component or equipment not attached to the lifting machinery, allowing the load to be held, which is placed between the machinery and the load or on the load itself, or which is intended to constitute an integral part of the load and which is independently placed on the market; slings and their components are also regarded as lifting accessories.”

The statement “**...or which is intended to constitute an integral part of the load and which is independently placed on the market**” applies to components such as pad eyes, ISO container pockets, eyebolts, and slings, when they are manufactured and placed on the market (or put into service for own use) separately from the load item.

In such cases, the manufacturer must treat the component as a lifting accessory and meet all the legal obligations set out in the relevant supply legislation. This includes completing a conformity assessment and affixing the appropriate conformity mark, as well as preparing a Declaration of Conformity and instructions for safe use.

Where these lifting components are designed and fabricated solely as part of the load item, and not placed on the market separately, they are not considered lifting accessories and therefore do not require separate conformity assessment or marking. However, the load item incorporating these lifting components falls within the scope of Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, which requires that any article supplied for use at work is designed, constructed, and provided so that it can be used safely for its intended purpose.

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