



G03. Which is the correct term to describe the lifting capacity of lifting equipment, i.e. Safe Working Load (SWL), Working Load Limit (WLL) or Rated Capacity?

The answer to this is that they are all correct and the choice of which to use is really dependent on the use of the equipment, as explained in the following sections in LEEA's Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment (COPSULE):

1.2.13 Rated Capacity

This is the maximum gross load that a lifting appliance can lift for its specific configuration. It is generally used for lifting appliances in the same way as Working Load Limit is generally used for lifting accessories. It is not to be confused with Safe (Specific application) Working Load, see 1.2.17 and the notes thereto.

1.2.20 Working Load Limit (WLL)

The working load limit is the maximum load (mass) that an item of lifting equipment is designed to raise, lower or suspend. In some standards and documents WLL is referred to as 'maximum SWL.' This term is more generally used for lifting accessories, but lifting appliances are now commonly marked with a rated capacity, see 1.2.14.

1.2.16 Safe (Specific application) Working Load (SWL)

The safe working load or specific application load (SWL) is the maximum load (mass) as assessed by a Competent Person which an item of lifting equipment may raise, lower or suspend under the particular service conditions. The SWL is marked on the equipment and appears in statutory records.

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