

SAFETY ALERT



TITLE: Machine Safe Working Loads (SWL)

Number: 79

Date: December 2022

Background

All manufactures have recommended maximum Safe Working Loads (SWL) also known as Normal working Loads (NWL). This is the maximum safe force that a piece of lifting equipment, lifting device or accessory can exert to lift, suspend or lower a given mass without fear of breaking.

Key points

- SWL and or NWL limits are usually marked on machines by the manufacturer but, this could wear off over time, so ensure limits are visible at all times.
- Ensure all machines are fit for purpose and being used within manufacturers SWL's/NWL's.
- Contact manufactures if unsure what machines are rated.
- Ensure all machine operators are aware of what the load capacity is for the machine they are operating.
- There are Standards that relate to calculation of rated operating capacity and testing methods for verifying calculated tipping loads e.g. ISO 14397-1