



## Operation & Maintenance Instructions

### Instructions for Safe Use

### Safelift 360, VS and VS Plus Handchain Hoists

**Certification** Safelift 360, VS and VS Plus handchain hoists are lifting appliances for which the following regulations apply -

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 require the user to hold a current Report of Thorough Examination. This equipment requires thorough examination at least every 12 months. Rossendale Group issues a Report of Thorough Examination with every new Safelift 360, VS and VS Plus handchain hoist and offers a re-examination service on site or in our works for the subsequent periodic examinations.

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 requires the user to hold a Declaration of Conformity. Rossendale Group issues a Declaration of Conformity with every new Safelift 360, VS and VS Plus handchain hoist.

**Training** Operators of Safelift 360, VS and VS Plus handchain hoists must be trained in the safe use of the equipment, as required by The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Rossendale Group provides training courses for handchain hoists and other lifting equipment.

**Storage** Safelift 360, VS and VS Plus handchain hoists are supplied in either epoxy coated or corrosion protected finishes. Indoor storage is recommended, although outdoor storage is acceptable for corrosion protected units. Never return damaged blocks to storage. They should be dry, clean and protected from corrosion. Store blocks by their top suspension with chains clear of the ground (the chains may be wrapped together to facilitate this). Non-portable blocks stored outdoors should be covered and protected from corrosion.

**Documents** Instructions for Safe Use and Operating Instructions for Safelift equipment are available at [www.rossendalegroup.co.uk](http://www.rossendalegroup.co.uk). Declarations of Conformity and Reports of Thorough Examination, including any ongoing periodic reports issued by Rossendale Group, are available at our SiteCert web site [www.sitecert.info/](http://www.sitecert.info/). Purchasers and users of Safelift equipment and Rossendale Group examination clients are issued with user name and password access to their certificates.

**SWL** The Safe Working Load of the Safelift 360, VS and VS Plus handchain hoists is clearly marked on the hoist. The user must not exceed the marked SWL.

**Selection** Handchain blocks are available in a range of capacities and with various types of suspension. Select the block to be used and plan the lift taking into account the type of suspension (hook or trolley), the capacity, class of use and range of lift. The Safelift 360 handchain hoist may be used for non-vertical lifts. All other handchain blocks are designed for vertical lifting only. Consult the supplier if the block is to be used in areas of high risk, exposed to the elements, water, steam etc, with hazardous substances, e.g. acids or chemicals, or subjected to extremes of temperature.

**Safe Use** This document is issued in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, amended March 1988. It outlines the care and safe use of davits and is based on Section 14 of the LEEA Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment.\* This information is of a general nature only covering the main points for the safe use of the equipment.

It may be necessary to supplement this information for specific applications. All users must read these operating instructions carefully prior to the initial operation. These instructions are intended to acquaint the user with the product and enable him to use it to the full extent of its intended capabilities. The operating instructions contain important information on how to handle the product in a safe, correct and economic way. Acting in accordance with these instructions helps to avoid dangers, reduce repair cost and down time and to increase the reliability and lifetime of the product.

### **USING HAND CHAIN BLOCKS SAFELY**

- Do not attempt lifting operations unless you understand the use of the equipment and the slinging procedures.
- Do not use defective blocks, slings or accessories and never use the block chain as a sling.
- Check the slinging arrangement, that the block is safely rigged and that chains are not twisted, particularly in the case of multifall blocks.
- Check the load is free to move before commencing and that the landing area has been prepared.
- Raise the load just clear, then halt the lift to check the integrity of the block, slinging method etc.
- Check the travel path is clear and that you have a clear view so as to avoid accidental hook engagement or collision. Follow any particular site safety rules applicable to the movement of suspended loads.
- Keep fingers, toes etc clear when lowering loads.

### **CORRECT OPERATION**

- The hoist is to be used for lifting of loads. It may not be used for lifting people.
- The capacity indicated on the hoist is the maximum safe working load (WLL) that may be lifted.
- The load and suspension hook of the hoist during lifting operations must be perpendicular to the centre of the load to prevent pendulum motion of the load and damage to the hoist.
- Do not allow personnel to pass under a suspended load.
- After lifting or tensioning, a load must not be left unattended for a long period of time.
- Start moving the load only after it has been attached correctly and all personnel are clear of the danger zone.
- The operator must ensure that the load is attached in a manner that does not expose himself or other personnel to danger from the hoist, slings or the load.
- The hoists can be operated in ambient temperatures between -10°C and +50°C. Consult the manufacturer in case of extreme working conditions. Note: At ambient temperatures below 0°C the brake should be checked for freezing before every use.
- The accident prevention act and/or safety regulations of the respective country for using manual hoists must be strictly adhered to.
- In order to ensure correct operation, not only the operation instructions, but also the maintenance instructions must be complied with.
- If defects are found, stop using the hoist immediately.

### **INCORRECT OPERATION**

- Do not exceed the rated capacity of the hoist.
- Welding on hook and load chain is strictly forbidden. The load chain must never be used as ground connection during welding.
- Avoid side pull, i.e. side load on either housing or bottom block.
- The load chain must not be used for lashing or slinging purposes.
- Do not use this product for the transportation of people.
- Do not knot or shorten the load chain by using bolts/screws/screwdrivers or other devices. Do not repair load chains installed in the hoist.
- Do not remove the safety latch from the top or bottom hooks.
- Never attach the load on the tip of the hook. This also applies to the top hook.
- Do not use the chain stop as an operational limit device.
- Turning of loads under normal operating conditions is not allowed, as the bottom blocks of the hoists are not designed for this purpose. If turning of loads is required as standard, the bottom blocks have to be provided with swivel hooks supported by axial bearings. In case of queries consult the supplier.
- Do not drop, drag or throw the hoist down. Always place it properly on the ground.
- Do not expose chain blocks to chemicals, particularly acids, without consulting the supplier.
- Do not replace the load chain with a longer one without consulting the supplier.
- Do not use undue effort to force the block to operate.

- Do not allow oil or grease to come into contact with the brake.
- Do not expose a chain block directly to the elements, water spray, steam etc. without consulting the supplier.

### **INSPECTION PRIOR TO INITIAL OPERATION**

Each unit must be inspected prior to initial operation by a competent person. The inspection is visual and functional. This inspection shall establish that the unit is safe and has not been damaged by incorrect transport or storage. Inspections should be made by a representative of the manufacturer or the supplier although the company can assign its own suitably trained personnel.

### **INSPECTION BEFORE STARTING WORK**

Before starting work inspect the hoist, chains and hooks every time for visual defects. Furthermore test the brake and make sure that the load and hoist are correctly attached. For this purpose a short work cycle of lifting/pulling or tensioning and releasing should be carried out.

#### **Load chain inspection**

Inspect the load chain for sufficient lubrication and visually check for external defects, deformations, superficial cracks, wear or corrosion marks.

#### **Chain stop inspection**

The chain stop must be connected to the free (idle) chain strand. Check that the bottom hook will reach its lowest point without running the chain fully out.

#### **Inspection of top and bottom hooks**

Inspect top and bottom hooks for deformations, damage, cracks, wear or corrosion marks.

#### **Chain reeving inspection**

All units equipped with two or more chain falls should be inspected prior to being put into operation for twisted or kinked chains. The chains of multiple fall hoists may be twisted if the bottom block was turned over. The load chain has to be installed with the welds on the standing links facing away from the load sheave.

### **FUNCTION / OPERATION**

#### **Lifting the load**

Pulling the hand chain in clockwise direction will raise the load. The load must always be seated in the saddle of the hook. Never attach the load on the tip of the hook. This also applies to the top hook.

#### **Lowering the load**

Pulling the hand chain in anticlockwise direction will lower the load.

#### **Overload protection (optional)**

The overload protection device is set at approx. 25% (+/- 15%) overload. Its adjustment must only be carried out by a competent person. When exceeding the pre-set overload limit, the protection device will be activated. Lifting is thus prevented while lowering remains possible.

### **INSPECTION / MAINTENANCE**

To ensure that the hoists remain in safe working order they are to be subjected to regular inspections by a competent person. Inspections are to be annual unless adverse working conditions dictate shorter periods. The components of the hoist are to be inspected for damage, wear, corrosion or other irregularities and all safety devices are to be checked for completeness and effectiveness. Check for damage to trolley, hooks and fittings, damaged or distorted slack end anchor, chains worn, bent, notched, stretched, corroded, do not hang freely, twisted or jump, load slips or will not lift, damaged block casing and illegible markings. To test the brake, a test load of the hoist's rated capacity is required. To check for worn parts it may be necessary to disassemble the hoist. Keep load chains lubricated.

**Repairs may only be carried out by a specialist workshop that uses original Safelift spare parts.**

\*Further information is given in:

HSE Guidance Note PM39 - Hydrogen Embrittlement of Grade T Chain.

The Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment, published by the LIFTING EQUIPMENT ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION.