



Instructions for safe use of Beam Clamps





This information should be made available to the user of the equipment.

This document is issued in accordance with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, amended March 1988 and the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (Machinery Directive). It outlines the care and safe use of BEAM CLAMPS and is based on section 9 of the LEEA Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment

The information is of a general nature only covering the main points for the safe use of beam clamps. It may be necessary to supplement this information for specific applications.

ALWAYS

- Ensure the operator is properly trained to use beam clamps.
- Store and handle beam clamps correctly.
- Inspect beam clamps and accessories before use and before placing in storage.
- Ensure that the supporting structure is adequate for the full load that will be imposed and suitable for the application.
- Check that the clamp is of the correct profile and size or correctly adjusted for the beam width and that it sits correctly on the beam flange.
- Ensure that the beam clamp is strong enough for the full load that will be imposed.
- Check that the beam clamp is directly over the centre of gravity of the load.

NEVER

- Use beam clamps which are unidentified or uncertified for lifting applications.
 - Never replace bolts, shackles etc without consulting the supplier.
 - Obliquely load beam clamps without the authority of the supplier.
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Selecting the correct beam clamp

Beam clamps are available in a range of capacities and designs. They may be adjustable or of fixed size, have a scissor action, screw locking or bolt clamp fixing and be suitable for temporary or permanent applications. Select the beam clamp to be used and plan the lift taking the following into account:

- Type of clamp – adjustable or non-adjustable – scissor, screw or bolt action.
- Capacity and beam size or range of beam sizes.
- Suitability of the beam
- Type of lifting appliance to be used.
- Is the application temporary or permanent?

*NOTE: Beam clamps are generally intended for attachment to overhead beams to act as suspension points for lifting appliances. Some designs are suitable for attachment to the load to provide a lifting point. **The supplier should be consulted for such applications which are excluded from these instructions.***

Storing and Handling Beam Clamps

Never return damaged beam clamps to storage. They should be dry, clean and protected from corrosion.

Where necessary fasteners should be reassembled immediately after removal from the beam.

Beam clamps should not be dropped or thrown down.

The Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment published by the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association and available as a free download on www.leeaint.com/downloads

Using Beam Clamps Safely

The safe use of beam clamps will largely be governed by the requirements for the lifting appliance with which it is to be used but should take the following matters into account:

- Do not use defective beam clamps, lifting appliances or accessories.
- Ensure the structure from which the clamp is to be suspended is undamaged and is adequate for the full load that will be imposed. **If in doubt consult a competent person to confirm suitability.**
- Ensure the clamp is suitable for the application, correct size and profile for the beam and seats correctly. It must not cause localised overloading.
- Ensure the lifting appliance is compatible with the clamp and that hooks or other attachments fit freely into the eye, shackle etc of the clamp.
- The clamp must be positioned directly over the centre of gravity of the load and the load must not be allowed to swing or impose an oblique loading.
- If two clamps are to be used in tandem then the use of ancillary equipment may be necessary e.g. a spreader beam. Care must be taken to ensure no one clamp takes more than its SWL.

In Service Inspection and Maintenance

Beam clamps should be cleaned and any moving parts lubricated at appropriate intervals unless the suppliers' specific instructions indicate otherwise.

Regularly inspect beam clamps and in the event of any of the following defects refer to a competent person for thorough examination:

- Illegible markings.
- Wear, damage, cracking or distortion.
- Corrosion
- Insecure bolts etc.

In the event of re-selling or hire of the equipment this information must be passed on to the end user.

Further information can be found in