



Project cargo

Operating cargo gear over limits



Heavy Lifts: we are seeing more and more lifting operations in excess of the Safe Working Load (SWL).

While there are many causes for this, the excessive operation of cargo gear can be the cause of important claims.

Certification

The “Certificate of Test and Thorough Examination of Lifting Appliance” (ILO – Convention N° 152) issued by Class Societies is put forward as proof of SWL.

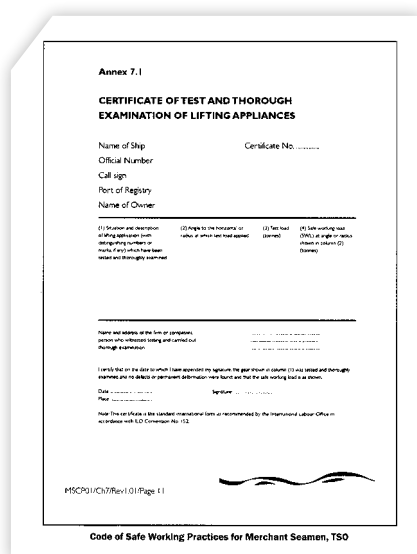
It is issued after a test has been duly carried out in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.

It must be done using an approved proof load which may be greater than SWL* as per following regulation frame:

- After manufacture and installation of the plant
- After repair or modification likely to affect SWL or the strength or stability of the equipment
- At maximum interval of 5 years

The certificate is evidence that SWL of lifting appliances have been duly tested. It comes along with all manufacturers’ certificates and examination schemes (evidence that the maintenance standard is strictly respected). All these documents must be readily accessible on board the vessel in the Cargo Securing Manual.

*Up to 10% for lifting appliance the SWL of which is over 150 MT



So-called “authorizations” are reportedly granted by classification societies. It is an excessive interpretation of this certificate.

Potential Risk

- When operating in overload the safety system of most cranes must be bridged or partly by-passed. Hence the crane operator may not be able to see and control the weight and outreach. This can be dangerous when for example the lifted unit is heavier than planned.
 - Lifting gear operation in overload increases wear & tear and is not taken into consideration by the Safety Management System (SMS). The maintenance standard becomes doubtful.
- ✓ As a cargo owner, do not accept assurances from any party that SWL's can be exceeded.



Overstressed cargo runner

Reminder!



- ✓ The “Certificate of Test and Thorough Examination of Lifting Appliances” **IS NOT** an authorization to operate the lifting gear in excess of SWL.
- ✓ Operating gear in excess of SWL can damage lifting equipment.
- ✓ SWL is the only safety criterion which prevails for both personnel and cargo.
- ✓ Any onboard cargo gear proposed to operate in excess of SWL **MUST BE** rejected and can prejudice insurance cover.