

SAFE USE OF ALUMINIUM GANTRIES

Applies to: Reid Lifting and similar portable aluminium gantry systems

Purpose

Aluminium gantries are lightweight, portable lifting frames designed for temporary lifting operations using manual or powered hoists.

They are used for confined spaces, maintenance tasks, or where permanent lifting structures are not available.

This leaflet provides guidance for safe assembly, operation, and maintenance to prevent injury, overloading, or structural failure.

Before Use

- Inspect the gantry – Check beams, A-frames, end carriages, pins, bolts, wheels, and locking mechanisms for cracks, deformation, or corrosion.
- Verify SWL (Safe Working Load) – Ensure the gantry's rated capacity exceeds the combined weight of the hoist, lifting accessories, and load.
- Check certification – Ensure the gantry, beam trolley, and lifting accessories have valid inspection and test certificates.
- Confirm all parts – Verify the correct number of components and that they match the manufacturer's assembly drawing.
- Inspect pins and fasteners – Ensure retaining clips and bolts are undamaged and secure.
- Check ground conditions – The surface must be firm, level, and capable of supporting the total load on all castors or feet.
- Ensure the beam is correctly seated in the A-frames and locked in position.
- Ensure operator competence – Only trained personnel should assemble, move, or operate the gantry.

During Operation

- Assemble in accordance with the manufacturer's manual.
- Always fit the correct beam trolley and hoist for the rated load.
- Centre the load under the beam before lifting – never side load the structure.
- Lift slowly and smoothly – avoid sudden movements, jerks, or impacts.
- Ensure castors are locked before lifting.
- Use tag lines to control swinging loads.
- Keep all personnel clear of the suspended load and lifting area.
- Maintain clear communication with the hoist operator and signaler.
- Do not exceed the maximum height adjustment or span set by the manufacturer.
- When relocating, lower the beam and load completely before moving the gantry.

Do Not

- Exceed the SWL of the gantry, beam trolley, or hoist.
- Use damaged, missing, or substitute parts.
- Side load or drag the gantry while supporting a load.
- Climb or stand on the gantry frame or beam.
- Use in high winds or unstable ground conditions.

- Modify or drill components.
- Leave suspended loads unattended.
- Move the gantry with a suspended load unless specifically designed for that purpose.

After Use

- Fully lower and remove the load and hoist.
- Disassemble carefully – avoid dropping or striking components.
- Clean all parts and inspect for wear or damage.
- Tag out and report any defective parts to your supervisor.
- Store components in a clean, dry, secure area away from contamination or impact damage.
- Keep an up-to-date inspection record as per LOLER requirements.

Safety Reminders

- Always follow the manufacturer's assembly and operation manual.
- Conduct a pre-use inspection and risk assessment before every lift.
- Ensure exclusion zones are maintained around lifting operations.
- Never exceed the SWL or use the gantry for personnel lifting.
- Use proper PPE: safety helmet, gloves, safety boots, and high-visibility clothing.
- Arrange periodic thorough examination by a competent person in accordance with regulations.

Support and Maintenance

For service, inspection, and spare parts, contact your local Lifting Gear and Safety Depot

Depot List

Bristol: 0117 9714883

Avonmouth: 0117 9550456

Newport: 01633 334450

Port Talbot: 01639 540007

Pembroke: 01646 574000

Plymouth: 01752 474488

Fareham: 01329 550988

Redruth: 01209 703990