

SAFE USE OF BEAM CLAMPS

Applies to: Tractel, George Taylor, William Hackett, Crosby, Yale, Tiger, and similar adjustable beam clamps

Purpose

Beam clamps are designed to provide a temporary or semi-permanent suspension point on steel beams and girders for lifting equipment such as chain blocks, hoists, and pulleys.

They allow safe attachment to flanges without drilling or welding.

This leaflet provides guidance for safe use to prevent clamp slippage, dropped loads, beam damage, or equipment failure.

Before Use

- Inspect the beam clamp – Check body, jaws, screws, pins, threads, and suspension eye for cracks, corrosion, wear, or deformation.
- Verify SWL – Ensure the clamp's rated capacity exceeds the combined load of the hoist and lifted load.
- Check beam suitability – Confirm beam flange width and thickness are within the clamp's adjustment range.
- Inspect threads and adjusters – Ensure screw threads are clean, lubricated, and free from damage.
- Check jaw faces – Ensure gripping surfaces are clean and free from oil, paint, rust, or debris.
- Inspect locking devices – Ensure lock nuts, retaining pins, or safety catches are present and functional.
- Confirm orientation – Clamp must be installed correctly for vertical loading only.
- Check suspension point – Ensure hook or shackle fits correctly in the clamp eye.
- Test fit – Fit the clamp to the beam and hand-tighten to ensure correct seating.
- Ensure operator competence – Only trained and authorised personnel should fit and use beam clamps.

During Operation

- Tighten the clamp fully in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
- Ensure the clamp is square and fully seated on the beam flange.
- Load the clamp vertically only.
- Apply load gradually and smoothly.
- Maintain clear exclusion zones beneath the load.
- Keep hands and body clear of the clamp and load path.
- Monitor for any movement or slipping during the lift.
- Use tag lines to control suspended loads if required.
- Stop immediately if the clamp shifts or makes abnormal noise.

Do Not

- Exceed the clamp's SWL.
- Use on beams outside the clamp's size range.
- Side-load, twist, or shock-load the clamp.
- Use damaged, bent, or corroded clamps.
- Use on oily, painted, rusty, or dirty flanges without cleaning.

- Use clamps without locking devices fitted.
- Modify or weld the clamp.
- Use as a permanent suspension point unless specifically rated.
- Stand beneath suspended loads.

After Use

- Remove the clamp carefully after unloading.
- Inspect for wear, cracks, or thread damage.
- Clean jaw faces and threads.
- Lubricate adjustment screws lightly if required.
- Store in a dry, secure location.
- Tag out and report defective clamps immediately.
- Maintain LOLER inspection and service records.

Safety Reminders

- Always follow manufacturer instructions (Tractel, George Taylor, William Hackett, etc.).
- Never exceed SWL or use on unsuitable beams.
- Always load vertically and centrally.
- Maintain exclusion zones under suspended loads.
- Use correct PPE: helmet, gloves, safety boots, and hi-vis.
- Conduct pre-use checks before every lift.
- Ensure periodic thorough examination by a competent person.

Support & Maintenance

For servicing, inspection, testing, and spare parts for beam clamps, contact your local Lifting Gear & 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