

## SAFE USE OF MECHANICAL KERB GRABS

Applies to: Probst TSZ, TSZ Uni, Conquip, Eichinger, and similar types

### Purpose

Mechanical kerb grabs are designed for lifting, moving, and placing single or multiple kerbstones, edging units, or similar preformed loads using cranes, excavators, or forklifts fitted with lifting hooks or eyes. This leaflet provides guidance for safe operation to prevent accidents, dropped loads, or equipment damage.

### Before Use

- Inspect the grab – Check frame, arms, pads, bolts, and springs for cracks, deformation, or excessive wear.
- Verify SWL (Safe Working Load) – Ensure the grab's rated capacity exceeds the total load weight.
- Check certification – All lifting accessories (chains, slings, shackles, etc.) must have valid inspection tags.
- Ensure compatibility – The grab must suit the kerb size, type, and surface condition.
- Check pads and grips – Ensure rubber pads are clean, undamaged, and free from oil, mud, or debris.
- Confirm correct operation – Test that the spring or mechanical clamping action moves freely and releases properly.
- Ensure stable lifting setup – Attach the grab to a certified lifting point using an appropriate shackle or chain sling.
- Ensure operator competence – Only trained, authorised personnel should attach, guide, or signal the lift.

### During Operation

- Position correctly – Lower the grab vertically over the kerb or object to be lifted.
- Full engagement – Ensure pads make full, even contact on both sides before lifting.
- Lift vertically – Do not drag, twist, or side-load the grab during use.
- Lift slowly and steadily – Avoid jerking, sudden stops, or swinging loads.
- Stay clear – Keep all personnel outside the danger zone beneath or around the suspended load.
- Use guide ropes/tag lines – Never steady or align a load by hand.
- Maintain visual contact – Use standard hand signals or radios where visibility is restricted.
- Set down carefully – Lower the load gently and ensure it is stable before releasing grip.

### Do Not

- Overload the grab beyond its rated capacity.
- Use on irregular, loose, or unstable materials.
- Modify, weld, or drill any part of the grab.
- Use damaged, uncertified, or untested lifting gear.
- Leave loads suspended or unattended.
- Work beneath a raised or moving load.
- Use if the gripping surfaces or pads are excessively worn or contaminated.
- Use the grab for lifting items other than those it was designed for (e.g. kerbs, slabs, or blocks).

## **After Use**

- Place the grab on firm, level ground when not in use.
- Clean the gripping pads and moving parts to remove dirt and debris.
- Inspect for wear, damage, or deformation; tag out defective grabs.
- Lubricate pivot points lightly if required.
- Store in a dry, secure area protected from corrosion or impact damage.
- Report all faults or incidents immediately to your supervisor.

## **Safety Reminders**

- Always follow the manufacturer's specific operating instructions.
- Conduct a risk assessment and lifting plan before each job.
- Never exceed the crane, excavator, or grab's rated lifting capacity.
- Use appropriate PPE: safety helmet, gloves, safety boots, and high-visibility clothing.
- Only competent, trained personnel should attach, lift, or signal.
- Always ensure the load is balanced and secure before lifting.

## **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