

SAFE USE OF TRACTEL MINIFOR PORTABLE ELECTRIC HOISTS

Applies to: Tractel Minifor units (TR Series), portable electric wire rope hoists and equivalent models

Purpose

The Tractel Minifor is a portable electric hoist designed for temporary lifting and pulling operations using a traversing wire rope.

It allows controlled lifting, lowering, and tensioning of loads in construction, lifting operations, and maintenance tasks.

This leaflet provides guidance for safe operation, setup, and maintenance to prevent overloading, rope failure, electric hazards, or dropped loads.

Before Use

- Inspect the hoist – Check the casing, suspension point, rope guide, control pendant, and power cable for damage.
- Verify SWL (Safe Working Load) – Ensure the Minifor model (TR10, TR30, TR50, etc.) is rated appropriately for the intended load.
- Check certification – Ensure hoist and wire rope have valid LOLER thorough examination records.
- Check the wire rope – Inspect for broken wires, kinks, flattening, corrosion, or bird-caging.
- Verify rope compatibility – Use only the manufacturer-approved Minifor rope of the correct diameter and termination.
- Confirm correct installation – Ensure the upper suspension (hook, shackle, beam clamp, tripod, gantry) is rated and secure.
- Inspect power supply – Ensure voltage and extension leads are suitable, undamaged, and protected from water ingress.
- Test operation with NO LOAD – Run rope through hoist to check for smooth movement, correct direction, and brake function.
- Ensure operator competence – Only trained and authorised users should operate Minifor hoists.

During Operation

- Position the hoist vertically so the rope feeds straight through the rope channel.
- Ensure the wire rope is clean and correctly inserted through the machine.
- Lift slowly and smoothly — avoid shock-loading or jerking the load.
- Maintain clear line of sight to the load or use a trained banksman.
- Keep hands clear of rope entry and exit points.
- Ensure the load travels freely without fouling edges, structures, or sharp surfaces.
- Maintain exclusion zones beneath the suspended load.
- Use tag lines to control swinging loads.
- Monitor rope pay-out and reeling at all times — stop immediately if snagging occurs.
- Stop if unusual noise, vibration, or motor overheating occurs.

Do Not

- Exceed the rated WLL of the hoist or rope.
- Use damaged, kinked, or non-approved wire rope.
- Side-pull or operate with the hoist at an angle.
- Allow rope to run over sharp corners without protection.
- Operate in rain, standing water, or with unprotected outdoor electrics.
- Modify the unit, rope guide, or termination points.
- Use for lifting people or supporting suspended access platforms.
- Leave suspended loads unattended.
- Operate continuously to the point of motor overheating — allow rest periods.

After Use

- Lower the load fully and disconnect power.
- Remove wire rope and coil carefully to prevent kinks or crushing.
- Wipe down hoist and rope to remove dirt, moisture, and debris.
- Inspect for wear, cracks, or electrical damage.
- Tag out and report any defects immediately.
- Store hoist and rope in a dry, clean, protected container.
- Maintain up-to-date inspection and load test records in accordance with LOLER.

Safety Reminders

- Always follow Tractel's operating manual and rope insertion procedure.
- Conduct a pre-use inspection before every shift.
- Never exceed load rating or use unauthorised ropes.
- Ensure a competent person prepares a lifting plan for higher-risk operations.
- Maintain exclusion zones under actively lifted loads.
- Use appropriate PPE: safety boots, gloves, helmet, and high-visibility clothing.
- Arrange periodic thorough examination by a competent person.

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