

## SAFE USE OF NIKO C-TRACK SYSTEMS

Applies to: Niko, Demag, and similar enclosed track systems for manual or powered lifting

### Purpose

C-track systems provide a lightweight, modular overhead rail solution for supporting hoists, trolleys, and festoon power or air lines.

They enable smooth and controlled movement of loads along a fixed path.

This leaflet provides guidance for safe installation, testing, operation, and maintenance to prevent accidents, dropped loads, or structural failure.

### Before Use

- Inspect the system – Check track sections, joints, hangers, end stops, and suspensions for cracks, distortion, corrosion, or loose fittings.
- Verify SWL (Safe Working Load) – Ensure the complete system (track, trolley, suspension, and hoist) is rated for the intended load.
- **Perform a load test prior to first use** – After installation or reconfiguration, the C-track and supporting structure must be load tested to 110–125 % of its rated capacity by a competent person to verify integrity and alignment.
- Confirm alignment – Ensure track joints are straight and smooth; trolleys must move freely end-to-end.
- Check end stops – Verify that all end stops or buffers are securely fitted.
- Inspect trolleys and bearings – Ensure they roll smoothly with no excessive play or friction.
- Verify hangers – Confirm suspension points are fixed to suitable structural supports with approved fittings.
- Ensure operator competence – Only trained and authorised personnel should operate or inspect lifting systems.

### During Operation

- Lift loads using a certified hoist and trolley rated for the system's SWL.
- Keep loads centred under the track – avoid side pulls or angular loading.
- Move the load smoothly to avoid shock loading or sudden stops.
- Keep the track and working path clear of obstructions and personnel.
- Maintain visual or radio communication with all personnel involved in the lift.
- Stop operation immediately if abnormal noise, vibration, or stiffness occurs.
- Never operate the system if end stops or hangers are missing or loose.

### Do Not

- Exceed the rated SWL of the track, trolley, or hoist.
- Use or modify any component without manufacturer approval.
- Operate if cracks, bends, or corrosion are present.
- Remove end stops or allow uncontrolled trolley travel.
- Use uncertified structures or fittings to suspend the system.
- Leave suspended loads unattended.
- Use the system for personnel lifting unless designed and rated for that purpose.

## **After Use**

- Park hoists and trolleys at designated points when not in use.
- Lower all loads completely and release tension from lifting media.
- Clean and inspect rails, joints, and hangers for signs of wear or corrosion.
- Tag out and report any defects immediately to your supervisor.
- Maintain inspection and load test records in accordance with LOLER and manufacturer guidance.
- Ensure the system is re-load-tested after relocation, major repair, or modification.

## **Safety Reminders**

- Always follow manufacturer installation and operation instructions.
- Conduct a visual inspection and function check before every shift.
- Carry out load testing by a competent person before first use and after any major alteration.
- Never exceed load ratings or operate without end stops and secure hangers.
- Maintain exclusion zones beneath lifting operations.
- Use appropriate PPE: safety boots, gloves, helmet, and high-visibility clothing.
- Arrange periodic thorough examination and re-certification 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