



LIFTING GEAR & SAFETY

SAFE USE OF SCAFFOLD HOISTS

Applies to: Imer, L'Europea, Boscaro, IMER ES series, L'Europea HE series, and similar scaffold-mounted hoists

Purpose

Scaffold hoists are portable electric lifting devices mounted to scaffold structures for raising materials such as buckets, tools, and construction supplies.

They provide simple vertical lifting where cranes or larger hoists are not practical.

This leaflet provides guidance for safe installation, operation, and maintenance to prevent dropped loads, scaffold damage, or electrical hazards.

Before Use

- Inspect the hoist – Check motor casing, drum, rope guide, pendant control, and mounting bracket for damage.
- Verify SWL (Safe Working Load) – Ensure the hoist's rated capacity (100–200 kg typical) exceeds the load being lifted.
- Check certification – Ensure hoist, rope, hook, and mounting system have current inspection records.
- Inspect the wire rope – Check for broken wires, kinks, bird-caging, corrosion, or flattening.
- Inspect scaffold structure – Verify the scaffold is erected by a competent person and rated for hoist mounting loads.
- Confirm bracket installation – Hoist support bracket must be fixed using approved clamps, bracing tubes, and locking pins.
- Check hook safety latch – Ensure the load hook closes automatically and rotates freely.
- Verify electrical supply – Use correct voltage, protected extension leads, and RCD protection.
- Test controls – Run hoist **unloaded** to test direction, brake function, and stop/start controls.
- Ensure exclusion zone – Mark a clear area beneath the hoist lifting route.
- Ensure operator competence – Only trained personnel should install or operate the hoist.

During Operation

- Ensure rope is correctly reeved and free of twists or knots.
- Lift straight up – avoid pulling at an angle against the scaffold.
- Maintain two-way communication between operator and ground worker.
- Use certified lifting accessories (buckets, skips, carriers) designed for hoist use.
- Keep the load within SWL and ensure it is securely attached.
- Lift slowly and avoid shock-loading or jerking the rope.
- Maintain exclusion zones beneath the lifting path at all times.
- Keep hands clear of drum, pulley, and rope entry points.
- Stop immediately if rope frays, snags, or the hoist makes unusual noise.
- Ensure the pendant control cable is kept away from sharp edges and moving parts.

Do Not

- Exceed the hoist's rated capacity.
- Use damaged, kinked, or wet/oily ropes.
- Mount the hoist on incomplete, unstable, or incorrectly braced scaffold.

- Use makeshift brackets, clamps, or non-approved supports.
- Lift people or ride on the hoist.
- Drag loads sideways, over edges, or around obstructions.
- Leave suspended loads unattended.
- Operate in heavy rain without waterproof-rated equipment.
- Allow rope to rub on scaffold tubes or brickwork without protection.

After Use

- Lower the load fully and switch off the power supply.
- Coil rope neatly and avoid kinks or crushing.
- Clean rope, hook, and hoist body to remove debris or mortar dust.
- Inspect for damage to rope, hook, and mounting components.
- Tag out defective equipment immediately.
- Store the hoist in a clean, dry, secure area.
- Keep inspection, PAT, and LOLER records up to date.

Safety Reminders

- Always follow Imer / L'Europea manufacturer instructions.
- Check scaffold by a competent person before installation.
- Maintain exclusion zones under all lifting operations.
- Never exceed the hoist SWL or use unauthorised lifting gear.
- Use proper PPE: gloves, helmet, safety boots, and high-visibility clothing.
- Perform regular thorough examinations by a competent person as required by LOLER.
- Only use compatible, certified rope and lifting accessories.

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