

# Creating A Winning Safety Culture

We are considered to be the leading provider of Training Services and Teaching Documents to the majority of International Oil Operators, Service Companies and Major Contractors worldwide.

Our success is due to sticking to what we are best at and doing it well. We liaise with Government Health & Safety Departments internationally and produce user-friendly procedural documents, training aids and training courses to help companies comply with legislation, regulations and safety standards.

The safety culture in the oil & gas industry is a very important issue, and our services are increasingly in demand overseas. We regularly supply training to all of the high activity global oil regions, in addition to training and onsite coaching at clients' facilities, we also operate training centres in various international locations.



**NEW!**

## Hands Free Lifting



## Why Hands-free Lifting?

Just like flying, the most hazardous parts of a lifting operation are lifting off and landing therefore at these critical stages, personnel must be as far away from the load as possible in case something does go wrong. To ensure this happens, it is essential to adopt a “hands-free” lifting policy that is rigidly adhered to.

However, there will always be certain jobs which will require “hands-on” for final positioning but these should be treated as exceptions to the norm and as such, fully addressed in the risk assessment process paying special attention to the risk of injury to fingers & hands, toes and feet.

## What do we need to be able to achieve “hands-free” lifting?

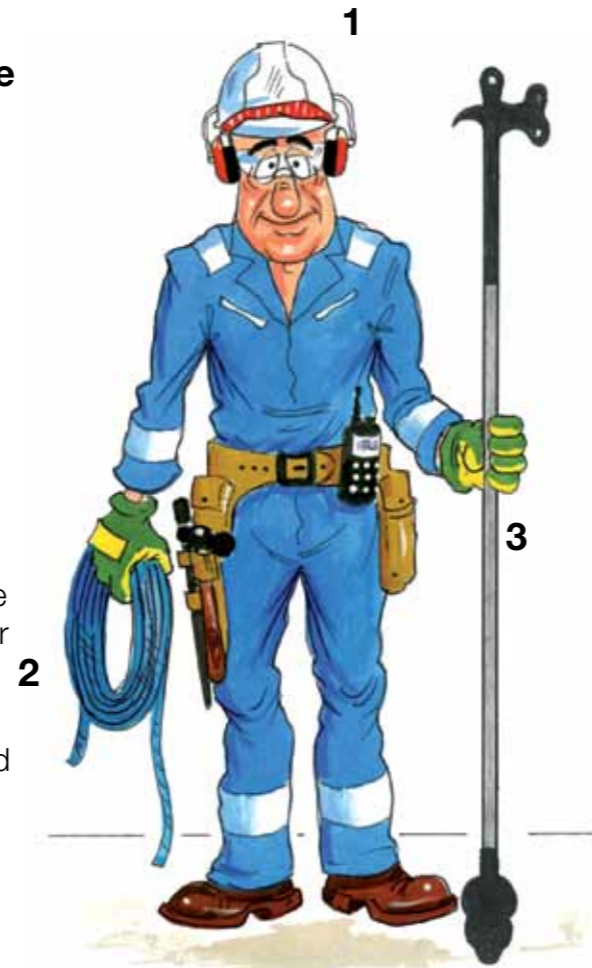
### Just three things!

- 1 The correct mindset
- 2 Tag lines
- 3 Push / Pull Poles

### 1 The Correct Mindset

Changing the way we have done things for years always results in an element of “push-back” from people set in their ways but we have to persevere with fresh ideas or we will never change things for the better.

It is a natural reaction to hold the rigging in place until the tension is taken up to make sure the load is properly slung and balanced but how often have you heard of people getting hands and fingers trapped or crushed by the rigging?



### 2 Tag Lines

Whether or not to use tag lines has always been a debatable point but the consensus of opinion is that although their use can introduce additional hazards, their use generally increases the safety of the lift.

Having said that, the advantages and disadvantages should always be considered and their use determined by a risk assessment.

### 3 Push / Pull Poles

Push / Pull Poles are simply wooden or fibre glass poles with a boat hook at one end and a rubber or leather pad at the other. Ideally, these should be about 2 metres / 6 feet long.

Their primary use is to retrieve tag lines hanging vertically down from the load so that personnel do not have to get too close to the suspended load. Their secondary use is to push and manoeuvre loads into the correct orientation / position for landing or guiding them into tight spaces while remaining hands-free / hands-off.



Achieving “hands-free” lifting is not difficult, it is just common sense. If you do come up against jobs that appear to require “hands-on”, think long and hard about how you can change that and if you think it needs special tools or equipment to achieve “hand-free”, tell your Supervisor.

Further information can be found in our Lifting-Related Safety Handbooks.

