

HIGH RISK WORK LICENSING FOR DOGGING INFORMATION SHEET

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Overview



This Information Sheet provides advice on high risk work (HRW) licensing requirements when carrying out dogging work. Further information on dogging work is in the:

- [General guide for cranes](#)
- [Information Sheet: High risk work licensing for vehicle loading cranes, and](#)
- [Information Sheet: High risk work licensing for bridge and gantry cranes.](#)



What is dogging work?

Dogging work involves exercising judgement (making decisions) when:

- **selecting** appropriate slinging methods and lifting gear by:
 - considering load size and shape
 - determining load weight (its mass) and centre of gravity, and
- **inspecting** lifting gear like chains, slings, ropes, cables and hooks used to attach loads to plant to ensure it is not defective.

Dogging work also includes:

- **directing** a plant operator in the movement of a load when the load is out of the plant operator's view by communicating with the plant operator using hand signals, whistles or two-way radios.

Note: Plant in this context means a crane or hoist or other plant used as a crane or hoist.



Who does dogging work?

A person doing dogging work is called a dogger or dogman. They must hold a Dogging HRW Licence to carry out dogging work.

Dogging work can also be carried out by licensed riggers. Licensed riggers complete the Dogging Unit of Competency to get their rigging HRW licence¹, which allows them to legally undertake dogging work.

Note: In this Information Sheet the term dogger includes rigger.

¹ There are three rigging HRW licences. They are the Basic Rigging HRW Licence, the Intermediate Rigging HRW Licence and the Advanced Rigging HRW Licence.



When is a dogger required?

A dogger is required to carry out dogging work. Slinging loads where judgement is not required and where the load is always in view of the plant operator is not dogging work, therefore a dogger is not required. Table 1 provides more information on the conditions when a dogger is required.

Table 2 provides some examples of plant and lifting conditions, and also lists whether a dogger is required.



Can a worker in training perform dogging work?

Dogging work can only be done without a Dogging HRW Licence if the worker:

- is doing the dogging work while enrolled in a Dogging HRW Licence training course, and
- is under the supervision of a licensed dogger.

Note: A plant operator can also be a licensed dogger. However, when moving a load, the plant operator cannot supervise a worker enrolled in a training course because the plant operator would be at the crane controls and therefore unable to effectively supervise the worker.

Using pre-determined slinging methods

The selection of the slinging method and lifting gear can be pre-determined by a competent person and set out in a safe work lifting procedure, for example where high-volume, repetitive lifting occurs using a bridge or gantry crane or a vehicle loading crane.

A safe work lifting procedure is a documented procedure that defines the details and procedures of a lift including the:

- weight of the load
- lifting points
- equipment and resources to be used
- procedures relating to differing weather and site conditions, and
- system for regular inspection of the lifting gear.

If unlicensed workers are to use pre-determined slinging techniques to sling loads, they must receive information, instruction and training so they can follow the procedures.

Using purpose-designed lifting frames or attachments will make this easier to achieve. Where the loads vary within a known weight range or a known range of centres of gravity, the specified slinging methods need to be suitable for the full range without the need to individually identify or estimate weights or centres of gravity.



Is a dogger required when using a vehicle loading, bridge or gantry crane?

Vehicle Loading Crane and Bridge and Gantry Crane HRW licences include the application of load estimation and slinging techniques to move a load. A licensed operator of a vehicle loading, bridge or gantry crane is therefore able to make judgements on the load and slinging method and select and inspect the lifting equipment to be used for the crane they are licensed to operate.

However, the licensed operator cannot direct a vehicle loading, bridge or gantry crane operator in the movement of a load when the load is out of the crane operator’s view or operate the vehicle loading, bridge or gantry crane themselves, if the load is out of their view. In these circumstances a dogger is required to direct the crane operator.

If the load is in view of the crane operator throughout the lift and all the other conditions listed in Table 1 are met, a competent worker other than the crane operator can sling the load.

 Further information

For further information see the [Safe Work Australia](http://www.swa.gov.au) website (www.swa.gov.au).

Table 1 Conditions when a dogger is or is not required

Activity		A dogger is required	Dogger is not required if ALL the conditions below are met.
Slinging a load	Selecting the slinging method	Judgement is required.	No judgement required because the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ selection of the slinging method is pre-determined by a competent person², and ■ lifting points are pre-determined by a competent person and marked on the load where appropriate.
	Selecting the lifting gear	Judgement is required.	No judgement required because the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ weight of the load—or load within a weight range—is pre-determined by a competent person e.g. may be marked on the load, and ■ selection of the lifting gear is pre-determined by a competent person.
	Inspecting the lifting gear	Judgement is required.	No judgement required because the condition of the lifting gear is regularly inspected by a competent person.
Safe work lifting procedures incorporating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ selecting the slinging method and lifting gear, and ■ inspecting the lifting gear. 		Judgement is required because there are no safe work lifting procedures.	No judgement required because the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ safe work lifting procedures³ have been documented and signed off by a competent person, and ■ all workers involved have been trained and demonstrated competency in the safe work lifting procedures.
Directing the plant operator - load is in or out of view of the plant operator.		Directing required because the load is out of the plant operator’s view during the lift.	No directing required because the load is in view of the plant operator at all times during the lift.
Training - as part of the Dogging Unit of Competency for a HRW licence.		A dogger is required to supervise training.	

2 A competent person includes a dogger, rigger or an engineer experienced in designing safe work lifting procedures.

3 Further information on documenting safe work lifting procedures is in the [General guide for cranes](#).

Table 2 Examples of when a dogger is required

Example	Dogger is required	
	Yes/No	Why
An excavator configured to lift loads is used to place pipes in a deep trench. The lifting gear has been specifically chosen by an engineer to lift pipes which are all of a similar size and weight, therefore no judgement is required by the person slinging the pipes. The pipes cannot be seen by the excavator operator when they are being placed in the trench.	Yes	A dogger is required because the plant operator cannot see the load throughout the lift and a dogger must be used to direct them.
A mobile crane is used to lift beams to the second storey of a building under construction. The beams are dissimilar and various slinging techniques are required. The mobile crane operator cannot see the landing area for the steel beams. No safe work lifting procedures have been documented.	Yes	A dogger is required because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the plant operator cannot see the load throughout the lift and a dogger must be used to direct them, and ■ judgement on slinging techniques is required as safe work lifting procedures have not been documented.
A multi-purpose tool carrier—telescopic handler—with a jib attachment is used to lift pallets of bricks to the first storey of a building under construction. The pallets are all of the same size and weight. No safe work lifting procedures have been documented.	Yes	A dogger is required because judgement on slinging techniques is needed as safe work lifting procedures have not been documented.
A factory making aluminium panels uses a bridge and gantry crane to move the panels around the workplace. The panels are always in view of the plant operator. Safe work lifting procedures have been documented and signed off by a competent person. All workers involved in the lift have been trained in the safe work lifting procedures.	No	A dogger is not required because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the load is always in view of the plant operator ■ safe work lifting procedures have been documented and signed off by a competent person, and ■ all workers involved in the lift have been trained in the safe work lifting procedures.
A hospital patient lifting sling and trolley is used to move a patient from one bed to another.	No	A dogger is not required because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ no judgement is required on slinging techniques, and ■ specific slinging and moving techniques for handling patients (safe work lifting procedures) are standardised, well documented and taught to workers undertaking patient handling tasks.