

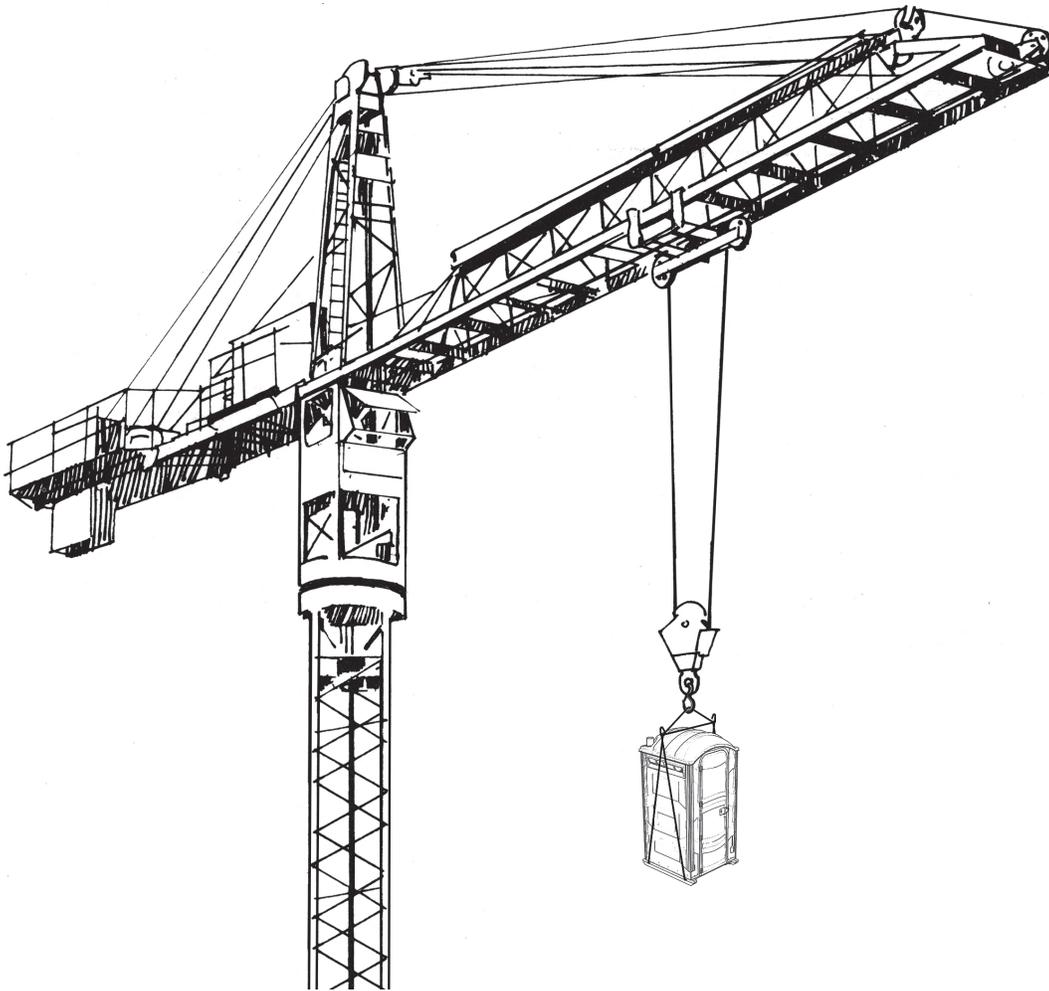
HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISORY

Hoisting Portable Toilets

On certain construction projects, such as high-rise construction, there may be a need to hoist portable toilets from one level to another. Some manufacturers and suppliers may offer devices such as sling sets to assist in hoisting these facilities.

The risk

Portable toilets can weigh a few hundred pounds when empty to over a thousand pounds when full. If the weight of the toilet exceeds the lifting capacity (also known as working load limit) of the sling set, the sling can fail. If the sling set fails, the toilet can come crashing down to the ground, putting workers below in serious danger.



Tower crane hoisting a portable toilet, using a sling set appropriate for the load

What the law says

According to the construction regulations:

A container, sling or similar device for rigging or hoisting an object, including its fittings and attachments, shall be capable of supporting at least five times the maximum load to which it may be subjected (O.Reg. 213/91, s. 172(1)).

All vehicles, machines, tools and equipment shall be used in accordance with any operating manuals issued by the manufacturers. (O.Reg. 213/91, s. 93(3))

No worker shall operate a crane or similar hoisting device in such a way that part of its load passes over another worker unless the other worker is receiving the load or is engaged in sinking a shaft. (O.Reg. 213/91, s. 103(2)).

If practicable, a worker who is receiving a load or is engaged in sinking a shaft shall be positioned so that no load or part of a load carried by a crane or similar hoisting device passes over the worker (O.Reg. 213/91, s. 103(3)).

Prevention Tips

- Consult the manufacturer for the working load limit (WLL) of the sling set. Ensure the sling set is marked with an identification number and the WLL.

Sling set label



- Know the weight of the portable toilet when full.
- Ensure the sling set is capable of supporting at least five times the weight of the toilet when full.
- Do not lift or swing the load over workers below.
- Always inspect the portable toilet unit and lifting device prior to a lift to ensure there are no damaged parts.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

If the working load limit of the sling set cannot be verified for the task at hand or does not comply with the legislation, the sling should be removed from service to avoid injuries to workers and the toilet should be hoisted into place using another device such as a basket or cradle.

For more information about hoisting and rigging requirements, consult IHSA's *Hoisting and Rigging Safety Manual (M035)* or contact IHSA.

A publication of the High-Rise Forming Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee
in partnership with the Infrastructure Health & Safety Association