



**GN 01 Hands off, Step away, Safe space (HOSASS)**

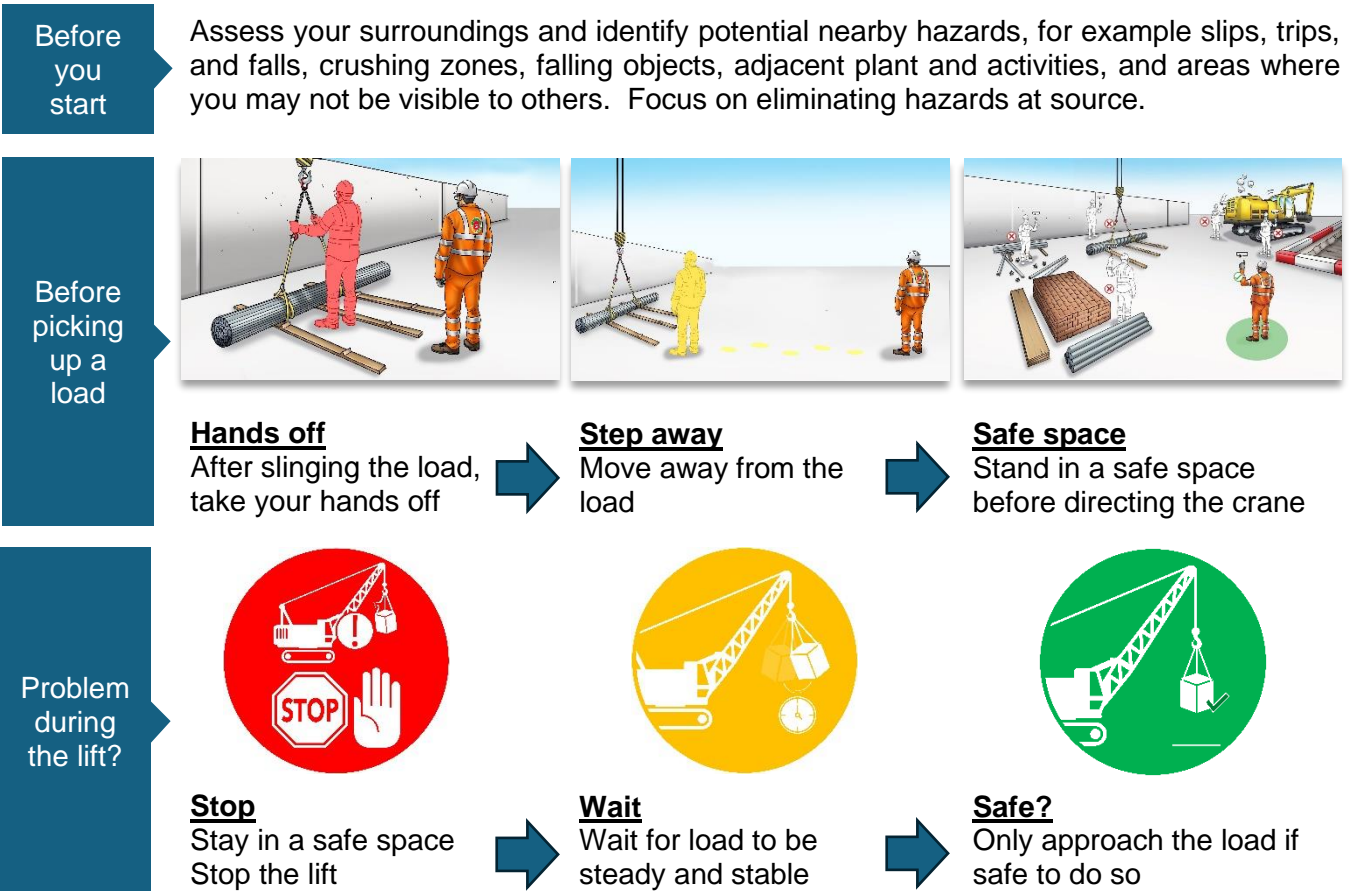
*It is not a new concept to avoid putting yourself in harm's way. Despite this, it is common to see people involved in lifting operations placing themselves in locations where, if something went wrong, they could easily be hurt, or worse. If something appears to be going wrong, it is also common to see people acting instinctively to try and sort the issue, thereby exposing themselves to further danger, rather than stopping the lift and remaining in a safe place until the load is safe to approach.*

The Industry Lifting Lead Appointed Persons Group (ILLAPG), working across industry with contractors, suppliers, regulators, and associations, has been working to improve standard practices. After an industry-wide survey, it was agreed that improvements were required to the standard practices and behaviours in relation to personnel/load interfaces during lifting operations. A major part of this improvement programme was the development, trialling, and roll out of the HOSASS initiative.

Loads are more likely to move unexpectedly during the early stages of a lifting operation, particularly when first lifted up (including for trial lift), compared to later stages of a lift. HOSASS works on the simple principle of personnel assessing their surroundings, identifying hazards nearby, and moving to a place of safety, whenever reasonably practicable away from the load, before loads are lifted up. Personnel should only ever have their hands on a load through necessity, and not habit.

The principles of HOSASS are simple but successful implementation requires changes to the standard practices seen in industry, and reinforcement of the desired behaviours.

Guidance Note



The HOSASS campaign, launched 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024, provides freely available training video, campaign poster, all images and icons, and additional guidance documents produced by industry.

For further information visit [www.illapg.com](http://www.illapg.com)