Chandelier hoists and *lowering gear*

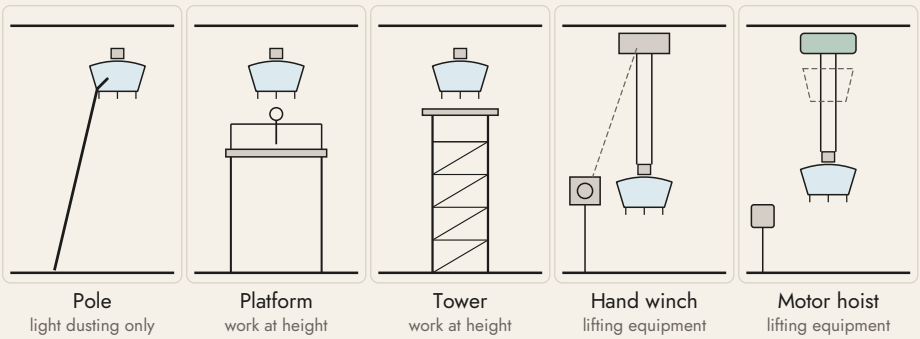
How to reach a high chandelier, what LOLER asks of the duty holder, and what to put in a hoist specification. Guidance only: no loads, speeds or sizes.

Compliance guidance. This is principle-level guidance for coordination. It gives no safe working load, load, speed or fixing size: the hoist maker, the structural engineer and the competent person set them. LOLER and the Work at Height Regulations are summarised from the primary text and HSE guidance as read on 7 November 2026, and not every regulation was read in full. This is guidance, not legal, engineering or health-and-safety advice: confirm with a competent person for lifting equipment, a structural engineer, the electrical designer and, where relevant, HSE or your local authority.

AT A GLANCE

Way to reach the fitting	Suits	Main safety question	Ask
Extension pole	Light dusting of a small, light fitting that is reachable	Not a way to move, relamp or clean a heavy fitting; what is the fitting's mass and fragility?	Is the fitting safe to touch from below, and who is allowed to?
Platform or tower	Occasional work, or a one-off such as installation	This is work at height, so the Work at Height Regulations apply; is there room and a safe floor for it?	Who erects it, who inspects it, and can it get through the door?
Scaffold	Installation and long projects	As above, plus cost and disruption each time it is needed	Is it only for the fit-out, or the long-term answer?
Hand winch	A fitting that must come down to be cleaned or relamped, with few lowerings	It is lifting equipment where used at work; the operator is carrying a load that can fall	Who is trained, how is the winch locked, what is its marked safe working load?
Motorised hoist	Frequent lowering, a high ceiling, a big fitting, a hotel or restaurant	Electrical supply, limit stops, brake, emergency lowering and the examination regime	Who examines it, how is it isolated, and what happens if it fails?

A first filter, not a safety assessment. How often the fitting must be reached, its mass and its position over the floor decide the answer. Cost is left out because it depends on the project.



Five ways to reach a high chandelier. Schematic side views, no heights or loads. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SEVEN THINGS TO SETTLE BEFORE THE CEILING CLOSES

1 How often must the fitting be reached? 2 Pole, platform, tower, winch or hoist, and why? 3 Who is the duty holder and who will examine? 4 What carries the load, and has an engineer checked it? 5 Where are the supply, isolator and control point? 6 What happens if the power or a rope fails? 7 What goes in the handover pack?

SPECIFICATION WORDING

LIFTING EQUIPMENT AND ITS EXAMINATION

The chandelier lowering gear [tag] is lifting equipment to be supplied with a declaration of conformity, a marked safe working load [set by the maker for the total suspended load stated in the chandelier schedule, mass [ ] kg to be confirmed], and installation to the maker's instructions. After installation and before first use it is to be thoroughly examined by [an independent competent person] and the report supplied. An examination scheme drawn up by a competent person is to be supplied for the operator.

FIXING AND SUPPLY

The hoist is to be fixed to [structure as designed by the structural engineer, drawing ref] and not to the ceiling finish. Power is to be from [a dedicated, isolatable supply designed by the electrical engineer], with the power and control cable supported separately from the load and a length allowed for full travel. The electrical installation is to be tested and certified to the edition of BS 7671 the project works to [state].

LIMITS, BRAKE AND EMERGENCY LOWERING

The system is to have upper and lower limit stops [and a second independent stop], a brake that holds the load on loss of power [maker to confirm], a means of emergency lowering that can be used by [named trained staff] without special tools, and [overload or slack-rope protection if the maker offers it]. The maker is to state the action on failure of each.

CONTROL AND KEEP-OUT ZONE

The control point is to be at [location] with a view of the whole load and the area beneath, lockable, and operable only by [authorised staff]. The area beneath the load is to be kept clear while the fitting moves, and a [sign or barrier] is to be provided. Operator instruction and a lowering and raising procedure are to be supplied for the handover pack.

TERMS USED

Thorough examination

A detailed examination of lifting equipment by a competent person before first use, after installation, at set intervals and after exceptional circumstances (LOLER reg 9; HSE). Separate from routine maintenance.

Competent person (LOLER)

Not defined in the regulations. HSE says the person needs practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of the equipment, and should be independent and impartial, not the person who routinely maintains it.

Safe working load (SWL)

The load the equipment is marked as safe to lift; LOLER requires the marking (HSE overview). The maker sets it: this library gives none.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/2307), regulations 3, 6, 8, 9: read 7 Nov 2026.
- HSE: LOLER overview, and thorough examination of lifting equipment: read 7 Nov 2026.
- Work at Height Regulations 2005, regulation 6: read 7 Nov 2026.
- Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008, regulation 4; SI 2026/867: read 7 Nov 2026.
- BS 7671 (the IET Wiring Regulations): named only; edition not checked.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/chandelier-hoists-and-lowering-gear. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.