Chandelier weights and *ceiling* loads

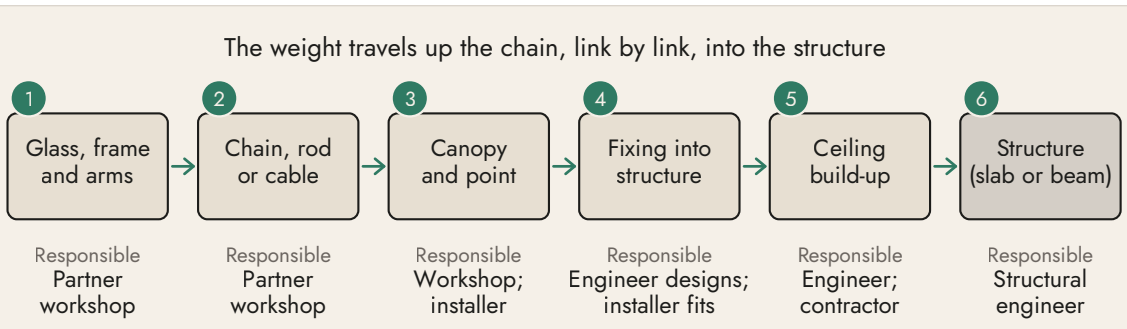
A heavy chandelier loads the structure through a chain of links. The weight comes from the partner workshop and the fixing is the structural engineer's to design and approve. No weights, factors or ratings are given.

Compliance guidance. This is a qualitative checklist. It gives no weights, safety factors, fixing ratings or safe working loads: those come from the partner workshop's declared figures and a structural engineer's design for your ceiling. This is guidance, not engineering, legal or electrical advice. Confirm every fixing with a chartered structural engineer and the electrical design with a competent electrical designer.

AT A GLANCE

Link in the chain	Why it matters	Who is responsible	Ask
Glass, frame and arms	The weight starts here: glass, metal, lamps and any added drops	Partner workshop declares it on the shop drawing	What is the declared weight, and how was it found (weighed or calculated)?
Chain, rod or cable	Carries the whole fitting; the weakest component sets the limit	Partner workshop declares the rating of each part	What is each part rated for, and by whom was it tested?
Canopy and suspension point	Hides the fixing; a decorative ceiling rose is not the structural fixing for a heavy piece	Partner workshop; installer	Does the canopy carry load, or does the load pass behind it?
Fixing to the structure	Where the load enters the building	Structural engineer designs; installer fits	Which fixing, how many, into what, and who has signed it off?
Ceiling build-up	Plasterboard, plaster or a suspended ceiling is not a load path for a heavy fitting	Structural engineer; main contractor	Does the load reach the structure above, not the lining?
Structure	The slab, joists or beams must carry the load safely, as the Building Regulations require of the building as a whole	Structural engineer	Has the engineer checked this point load against the structure?

Responsibility shown is the usual split on a project; confirm it in your own contract documents. No loads or ratings are given on this sheet.



Conceptual, not to scale. A secondary line, if used, is a second path through links 2 to 4.

The load path of a suspended chandelier, with who is responsible at each link. Conceptual section, not to scale; no loads or sizes are implied. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

WHAT TO TELL THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

1 Declared weight as installed, with tolerance and method. 2 How the load is applied and where. 3 The suspension and the rating of each part. 4 The ceiling construction above. 5 Hoisting, cleaning and re-lamping loads, for the engineer to allow for. 6 Later additions and who must be told.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

DECLARED WEIGHT

The supplier is to state the declared weight of fitting [tag] as installed, including glass, metalwork, lamps and any additions, in kilograms, with a tolerance of [±value, to be agreed] and the method by which it was found [weighed / calculated]. The weight is to be shown on the shop drawing [ref] and re-confirmed in writing if the design changes.

SUSPENSION COMPONENTS

The supplier is to state the rating of the chain, rod or cable, the canopy fixing and each connecting component of fitting [tag], and the basis of each rating [test / calculation / manufacturer's declaration]. These ratings are to be supplied to the structural engineer before the fixing is designed.

STRUCTURAL FIXING

The fixing of fitting [tag] to the building structure is to be designed and approved by [structural engineer] against the declared weight and the construction of [ceiling type] at [location]. No load is to be carried by plasterboard, plaster, a ceiling rose or a suspended ceiling unless the engineer has approved that arrangement in writing. [Approval ref.]

CHANGE CONTROL

Any increase in the weight of fitting [tag], including added drops, tiers or lamps, is to be notified to [designer] and the structural engineer before it is made. The fitting is not to be hung until the engineer's approval of the fixing and the declared weight is on file.

TERMS USED

Load path

The route a load takes from where it is applied, through each connecting part, into the structure that finally carries it.

Dead load

A load that is permanently present, such as the weight of the building and fixed fittings. Requirement A1 of the Building Regulations refers to combined dead, imposed and wind loads.

Point load

A load carried at one small area, such as a single fixing, as distinct from a load spread over a surface.

Canopy (ceiling plate)

The cover at the ceiling end of a pendant or chandelier that hides the fixing and wiring; on a heavy fitting the structural fixing sits behind it.

Ceiling rose

An accessory that connects the flexible cord of a pendant to the ceiling wiring. Ordinary roses are made for ordinary light fittings, not heavy decorative ones.

Declared weight

The weight the supplier states for the fitting as installed, written on the shop drawing and used by the engineer.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Building Regulations 2010, Schedule 1, Part A (A1 Loading): read 7 Nov 2026.
- Approved Document A: structure (2013 edition): listing read; the PDF was not read.
- BS 7671:2018+A4:2026 Requirements for electrical installations: status from search summaries only (published 15 Apr 2026); text not read. Regulation 559.6.1.5 read in an IET summary of the 2008 edition.
- BS EN IEC 60598-1 Luminaires, general requirements and tests: paywalled; text not read; confirm the edition and the suspension clause.
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, reg 9: read 7 Nov 2026.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/chandelier-weights-and-ceiling-loads. 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.