General Safety Rules When Using Powered Vacuum Lifters

* Never operate lifter until inspected and tested for each shift.
* Report any unusual operation or safety concerns to a qualified person and discontinue use of the vacuum lifting device until safety has been assured.
* Do not use vacuum lifting device with an “Out of Order” tag until it is returned to proper operating condition.
* Do not use lifter if capacity or safety markings are missing.
* Make sure that the supporting structure and load attaching devices (i.e. crane, chains, and hook) are rated to support the weight of the lifter and load.
* Be sure to subtract the weight of the lifter from the crane or hoist capacity when calculating the actual net capacity of the system.
* Use a safety latch on your crane hook to hold your lifter.
* Use lifter only on non-porous and slightly porous, smooth loads. The degree of porosity/roughness affects the lifter’s ability to make up for air leakage. All loads should be tested to determine the maximum achievable vacuum level.
Refer to the lifter specifications to determine at what vacuum level the lifter is rated.
* De-rate load capacity by 3.5% for each 1000 ft. of elevation above sea level.
* Use lifter only on clean loads; brush off loose debris, dirt, scale, chips, etc.
* Do not use lifter on badly rusted, pitted, or scaled loads.
* Never lift loads heavier than rated lifting capacity.
* Do not use lifter on loads beyond recommended length and width for your application. Consult ASE website [steel plate weight calculator](http://www.asesystems.com/vacuum-lifters/steel-plate-weight-calculator/) for recommended load overhang tables.
* Do not lift more than one work piece at a time. If sheets stick together, place the load down immediately and separate sheets prior to lifting.
* Use lifter only as a lifting and handling tool.
* Use lifter only for horizontal lifting and free overhead transport.
* Do not use lifter to drag loads over floors.
* Use the handle bars to position the lifter and guide the load.
* Do not push or pull the load with your hands on the load.
* When adjusting Crossarms and pads, keep vacuum lines free of twists and kinks. Do not pinch the vacuum lines.
* Do not lift loads higher than necessary.
* Perform a preliminary lift of a few inches to establish that a vacuum lifting device has been correctly applied and that a stable lifting vacuum level exists.
* Accelerate and decelerate loads smoothly.
* Avoid contact of loads with obstructions.
* Do not tilt any load more than 15 degrees from horizontal unless unit has been designed for tilting.
* Never tilt wet or oily loads.
* Always allow extra work space around load when using a tilting lifter. Tilted loads can slide or tumble if they become detached.
* Be sure to let those near you know that a lift is about to begin.
* Always stay clear of the load. Do not place feet or hands under the load.
* Keep face and body away from lifter or load in case of accidental release.
* Make sure that every person operating the lifter has read and understands the operating instructions which are printed in this manual and on the side of each lifter.
* The operator must respond to signals from appointed persons.
* Do not ride or allow others to ride suspended load or enter restricted spaces adjacent to the lifting operation.
* Do not keep loads suspended for unnecessarily long periods, such as during coffee or lunch breaks or other work stoppage.
* Do not keep loads suspended unattended.
* Do not lift loads over people.
* Do not stand under suspended loads.