

Lifting Capacity – Buyers Beware!

When a lift says it has a capacity of 4000Kg, it will lift 4000Kg, correct? Surely, the lifting capacity is the very least you can trust when you buy a 2 Post Lift?

Well, whilst you may find this improbable, the answer is actually 'No! That's not always the case'!

Whilst it remains a subject that is rarely raised by companies selling 2 post lifts, it is very common for the lifting capacity to be compromised by the design and, more specifically, the position of the lifting arms.

The reality of load distribution means that whilst set to the perfect scenario (i.e. optimum angle, minimum extension of arms), the lift will be capable of handling its published lifting capacity. Yet, on many lifts, as these positions are altered to suit the vehicle and location of the pick-up points, the lifting capacity will be reduced; and significantly so. It is possible for a 2 post lift that has a published lifting capacity of 4000kg, to see its actual lifting capacity reduced to as little as 2500kg when the arms are re-positioned to a more demanding scenario.

It's not a trick on behalf of the manufacturer; the details of this 'zonal' lifting capacity should be detailed a visible sticker on the column, as well as in the manual (where it probably blends in to pages of content you are unlikely ever to read! Crucially, this isn't always explained, and in this instance then you could argue it is a trick on behalf of the reseller, or at the very least a demonstration of poor product knowledge.

Cascos lifts, produced in the same factory in Northern Spain since 1965, and to the same demanding standards, since 1965, are engineered to guarantee structural safety, and adherence to the published lifting capacity, at any arm position regardless of extension. You can be 100% assured that your Cascos lift will meet the maximum load published regardless of where you position the arms.



Aside from the obvious commercial aspects, which could be considered misleading and possibly even a simple ploy to help reduce the price of a lift, there is a very serious safety implication that is becoming increasingly concerning.

Vehicles are, across the board, getting heavier. The advent of electric vehicles is compounding this further, with many EV's having very specific mounting points - you can't just place the arms under the sill anywhere that feels convenient. This is because the removal of a very heavy battery, whilst the vehicle is in the air, immediately impacts the weight distribution. If the operator finds themselves dictated by those pick-up points, and this incurs a reduction in lifting capacity, then the consequences are as potentially disastrous as they are obvious. Worse still, if the operator is inclined to adjust the arm positions to maintain the capacity, then we could be talking a catastrophe of the kind you see all too often on You Tube or the HSE website.

The Bottom Line

Our message here is that it is vitally important that you, as the buyer, questions the true lifting capacity of the lift you are considering because, from what we see, this is not something that is willingly volunteered.