




The objective of this Tool Box Talk is that it can be used as part of a safety meeting that focuses on the use of Vacuum Lifters in the workplace. The ASME B30.20 standard has been referenced when compiling this document as this is the most recognized standard used in North America for selection, inspection, cautions to personnel, effects of environment, and rigging practices of vacuum lifters.

Ask members of the meeting to give answers to the following, encouraging participation whether their answers are right or wrong.

LEGISLATION	ANSWER
1) WHAT STANDARDS SHOULD THE VACUUM LIFTER COMPLY WITH?	ASME B30.20 standard.
2) WHAT OTHER INFORMATION MUST BE REFERENCED?	Manufacturers Specifications
3) HOW OFTEN DO PERIODIC INSPECTIONS NEED TO BE CARRIED OUT?	At least annually(ASME), <i>but state what your company rules are.</i>
MARKINGS	ANSWER
4) WHAT 8 ITEMS ARE REQUIRED TO BE MARKED ON THE VACUUM LIFTER? 	1. Manufacturer, 2. Serial Number, 3. Lifter Weight, 4. Power requirements, 5. Pressure and Volume, 6. Rated Load 7. Design Category, 8. Service Class.
5) WHAT INFORMATION ALSO NEEDS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE VACUUM LIFTER? 	A product safety label concerning the operating procedures, cautionary language identifying hazards, and methods for accident prevention. 
APPLICATION	ANSWER
6) WHAT ARE THE TEMPERATURE RANGES FOR THE VACUUM LIFTER?	Temperatures exceeding normal ambient temperatures can affect the vacuum lifter. <i>The worker must confirm with the manufacturer as they may differ.</i>

<p>7) NAME SOME REASONS WHY THE VACUUM LIFTER MAY HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structural members if deformed, cracked or worn, 2. Vacuum generator output, 3. Vacuum pad seals for cuts, tears, excessive wear, or foreign particles, 4. Vacuum lines and connections for leaks, cuts, kinks, and collapsed hoses, 5. Vacuum reservoir for leaks and visual damage, 6. Indicator lights, gages, horns, bells, pointers or other warning device, and vacuum level indicators, 7. Missing or illegible operating control markings.
<p>8) HOW MUST THE LOAD BE DISTRIBUTED WHEN USING A VACUUM LIFTER?</p>	<p>The lifting magnet must be positioned securely above the loads center of gravity to achieve balance.</p>
<p>9) WHAT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE VACUUM LIFTER IS SECURED TO THE LOAD?</p>	<p>Load thickness, balance, surface cleanliness, flatness, bending, temperature, and wind speed can affect the vacuum lifter load securement capabilities, also it must be verified that the load is well secured and properly balanced when it is initially lifted.</p>
<p>10) WHAT PREPARATION NEEDS TO BE MADE TO THE SURFACE OF THE LOAD TO BE LIFTED BEFORE ATTACHING THE VACUUM LIFTER.</p>	<p>Any oil, grease, dust, dirt, ice or excess water should be removed from the loads surface where the suction cups will be located.</p>
<p>11) CAN A VACUUM LIFTER BE SIDE LOADED?</p>	<p>The vacuum lifter shall not be used for side pulls or sliding the load unless specifically authorized by the manufacturer.</p>
<p>12) WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO STORE VACUUM LIFTERS?</p>	<p>Where they will not be affected by mechanical damage, corrosion, moisture, or adverse temperatures.</p>

