Virta
KULTTUURITALO

**STAGE RIGGING SAFETY GUIDELINES** **18.11.2026**

## 1. General

All rigging operations involving stage and event technology must comply with applicable occupational health and safety regulations, equipment manufacturers' instructions and established industry safety practices.

Rigging work may only be carried out by personnel with the appropriate professional skills, competence and knowledge of the equipment and rigging methods being used.

Only equipment, structures, rigging hardware and lifting equipment that are fit for purpose, in good condition and appropriately rated for the intended loads may be used.

The event organiser is responsible for ensuring that all rigging associated with the event is properly planned and carried out safely in accordance with these guidelines.

## 2. Rigging Planning and Approval

All rigging must be planned in advance, before installation work begins. The planning must take into account, as a minimum:

- The total weight of all equipment, structures and accessories to be suspended.
- The distribution of loads across the suspension points.
- The locations of suspension points and the permissible load limits of the supporting structures.
- The suitability of the rigging hardware and lifting equipment to be used.
- Any dynamic loads, lateral forces or other factors affecting the loading conditions.

Where necessary, a separate rigging plan must be prepared, specifying the suspension points, loads, components to be used and the intended rigging configuration.

**All rigging arrangements must be agreed in advance with the Production Manager of Culture venue Virta.**

**No new attachments, fixings, drilling or modifications may be made to the venue's structures, ceiling or permanent rigging systems.**

## 3. Suspension Points and Load Limits

Rigging may only be attached to designated suspension points that have been approved for this purpose and are suitable for the intended application.

The load-bearing capacity of the supporting structures and the permissible load limits must be verified before any rigging work begins. Under no circumstances may these limits be exceeded.

Rigging design must take into account not only the total load but also load distribution, load direction and any unevenly distributed or concentrated loads.

The total load must include all suspended equipment, structures, cabling, rigging hardware and any other components contributing to the overall weight.

If there is any uncertainty regarding the suitability or load-bearing capacity of a structure or suspension point, the rigging must not proceed until its suitability has been verified.

**4. Rigging Hardware and Equipment**

All components used in rigging, including slings, shackles, hoists, lifting chains, rigging hardware and truss structures, must be suitable for their intended purpose and have an adequate rated load capacity.

All equipment must be inspected before use. Damaged, worn, inadequately labelled or otherwise questionable equipment must not be used.

Manufacturers' instructions and specified load limits must always be followed. The compatibility and suitability of all individual components within the complete rigging assembly must be verified.

All suspended equipment must be fitted with appropriate secondary safety attachments (safety bonds), which must be suitable for their intended purpose, adequately rated and correctly installed.

Secondary safety attachments do not replace the proper design, load calculation or execution of the primary rigging system.

**5. Lifting Operations and Working at Height**

Lifting equipment and mobile elevating work platforms may only be operated by personnel who have received the necessary training and hold the required qualifications or authorisations.

**The venue's own lifting equipment may only be operated by the technical staff of Culture venue Virta.**

During lifting operations, the working area must be secured and access restricted. No person may stand or work beneath a suspended or lifted load.

Adequate communication and coordination must be maintained between all personnel involved in rigging operations.

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and fall protection equipment must be used whenever required by the task. All fall protection equipment must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and applicable safety regulations.

**6. Cabling and Electrical Safety**

All cabling must be routed and secured in such a way that it does not create tripping, entanglement or other safety hazards.

Cables must never be used as rigging components or as load-bearing attachments.

Appropriate methods must be used for cable support and strain relief. All electrical equipment and cables must be in good condition and suitable for their intended use.

**7. Touring Productions' Fabrics and Fire Safety**

All fabrics brought into the venue by touring productions and other external productions, including curtains, backdrops, scenic fabrics and other textile materials, must be appropriately flame-retardant and comply with the venue's fire safety requirements.

The event organiser is responsible for ensuring that all fabrics brought into the venue meet these requirements. Reliable documentation confirming the flame-retardant properties of the materials must be provided upon request. Such documentation may include a fire classification certificate, manufacturer's declaration or certificate of flame-retardant treatment.

The technical staff of Culture venue Virta have the right to request documentation verifying the flame-retardant properties of any fabrics and to prohibit the use of materials where adequate fire safety cannot be verified.

Flame-retardant materials must be handled, used and, where applicable, retreated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or the instructions provided by the company carrying out the flame-retardant treatment.

**8. Inspections**

All rigging installations must be inspected and verified as safe before the event or performance begins.

The person responsible for the rigging must ensure that:

- The rigging installation complies with the rigging plan.
- All attachments and secondary safety bonds are correctly installed.
- All components used are in good condition and suitable for their intended purpose.
- Permissible load limits have not been exceeded.
- The rigging does not pose a risk to the audience, performers or venue staff.

**A rigging plan and any other requested documentation must be submitted to the Production Manager of Culture venue Virta for all substantial or non-standard rigging installations.**

**9. Responsibilities and Right to Stop Work**

The event organiser is responsible for the safety of all stage and event technology equipment and rigging arrangements used in connection with the event, and for ensuring that all rigging work is carried out properly and by competent personnel.

The event organiser is also responsible for ensuring that all personnel involved in rigging work are familiar with these guidelines and comply with them.

**The technical staff of Culture venue Virta have the right to supervise rigging operations and to stop any work or prohibit the use of any rigging installation if safety deficiencies, non-compliance with these guidelines or any risk to the venue's structures are identified.**

**Safety must never be compromised for reasons of scheduling, production requirements or cost.**