

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title:	Port Lifting Operations Subject Matter Expert (consultant)	Reports To:	Skills, Careers and Diversity Lead (project lead)
Contract	Freelance / consultancy	Location	Remote, with travel to UK ports as required
Daily rate	£400 to £500 per day	Commitment	Up to 25 days total: 20 days May to August, five days September

Port Skills and Safety Ltd:

Port Skills and Safety Ltd is the professional safety and skills membership organisation for ports. We work in collaboration with our members to promote best practice and innovation, develop guidance and services to drive continuous improvement in safety and ensure a highly skilled workforce.

PSS's vision is to drive the ports sector to become one of the safest places to work, with opportunities for individual growth and collective success. PSS aims to drive positive change in skills and safety across the entire port sector.

Areas of Responsibility

The Port Lifting Operations Subject Matter Expert will:

- Act as the technical subject matter expert for lifting operations within the port sector, supporting the development of a lifting operations standard and competency framework.
- Work collaboratively with the project lead to shape, test, and refine draft content throughout development, acting as an ongoing technical sounding board.
- Provide ad hoc technical advice and clarification between formal review points, supporting the ongoing development of materials.
- Review desk-based research and draft materials, providing critical input to ensure alignment with real-world port operations.
- Advise on the practical application of lifting operations requirements across a range of port environments, including complex and non-routine lifts.

- Support the development of role-specific competency requirements, ensuring they reflect operational responsibilities and decision-making in practice.
- Contribute technical input during stakeholder engagement, including supporting discussions with industry groups where required.

Key Accountabilities

- Provide timely, practical, and evidence-based input at key stages of the project, particularly during the drafting phase (May to August).
- Ensure that all outputs are operationally credible and reflect how lifting operations are planned and executed within ports.
- Challenge and test assumptions within draft materials, identifying gaps, risks, and over-theoretical approaches.
- Validate that outputs align with Safety in Ports (SiP) guidance, National Occupational Standards (NOS), BS 7121, and relevant legislation.
- Support refinement of materials following industry feedback (September to October).
- Manage input effectively within the agreed consultancy days, aligning effort to priority areas of the project.
- Engage with stakeholders in a constructive and professional manner.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times.

Qualifications and experience

- Significant, demonstrable experience in lifting operations within the port sector.
- Strong working knowledge of UK legislation and standards relevant to lifting operations, including LOLER and PUWER.
- Experience of complex lifting environments, including vessel operations, heavy or non-routine lifts, and multi-party coordination.
- Experience contributing to standards, competency frameworks, or training materials (desirable).
- Familiarity with NOS and SiPs relevant to lifting and/or port operations (desirable).

Personal Specification

- Collaborative and consultative approach – comfortable working in an interactive, discussion-led environment, providing ongoing input and constructive challenge.
- Confident communicator – able to articulate technical input clearly and challenge assumptions where required.

- High attention to detail – able to identify gaps, inconsistencies, and risks within technical content.
- Operational credibility – able to draw on recent, hands-on experience of lifting operations within ports.
- Professional credibility – able to engage confidently with industry stakeholders to support technical discussions where required.
- Flexible availability – able to commit to agreed consultancy days throughout the project.
- Consultancy mindset – able to work independently within agreed timescales.