

WSCC Rigging Guidelines

General Information

In an effort to ensure the safety of the guests, exhibitors, contractors and employees of the Washington State Convention Center (WSCC), we have implemented a rigging installation and certification program. Facility clients and their contractors must request advance approval for any rigging installations. Rigging diagrams must include location of hang points and load calculations and be submitted to and approved by LMG LLC. for 6ABC & 6E Ballroom rigging locations. All other areas must be submitted to your WSCC Event Manager before installation of any rigging begins. All rigging requests must comply with the guidelines as outlined in this document and use approved, rated and stamped hardware. Any rigging that is not approved in advance may be subject to immediate removal at the expense of the client or their contractor.

Definitions:

- *“Aerial Rigging”* is defined as the attachment of objects to the ceiling grid steel, catwalk, air wall tracks, ballroom points or the suspension of objects from any portion of the physical building.
- *“Ground Supported Rigging”* is defined as the attachment of objects to a load-bearing apparatus such as crank-up, electric, hydraulic, mechanized, self-climbing, manually built self-supporting truss systems, hoisting towers, single mast sound, lighting trees or other similar "stick" rigging device.

This document includes the following sections:

1. Hang Point Requirements and Load Limits for Aerial Rigging
2. Requirements for Ground Supported Rigging
3. Certified Rigger Requirements
4. Installations Requiring a Certified Rigger
5. Exclusions to Certified Rigger Requirements

1. Hang Point Requirements and Load Limits for Aerial Rigging

Your Event Manager or LMG LLC. can provide detailed facility rigging diagrams in CAD or .pdf format. All rigging installations must comply with the guidelines as outlined in this document and use approved rated and stamped hardware. Suspension points do not include light fixtures, sprinkler heads, conduit, HVAC ducts, or any other facility fixtures not specified below. WSCC will charge the rigging contractor or facility client for any costs associated with damage caused by faulty, unapproved or incorrect rigging installations. Any rigging that is not approved in advance may be subject to immediate removal at the expense of the facility client or their contractor. Any requested variance from these limits and requirements must be submitted to the WSCC Event Manager at least 30 days in advance for review by the Director of Operations.

Ballrooms 6ABCE (Level 6):

LMG LLC., the in-house audio visual service provider at the WSCC is the exclusive provider of ballroom aerial rigging labor services required for attachment to the fixed point ceiling grid. This also includes chain motor rental, span sets required to attach client truss systems to LMG LLC. chain motors, operable track hangers and rigging hardware required for the attachment of lighting, projection, sound or decorative elements to the fixed ceiling rigging grid. Please submit all Ballroom rigging plots including points and equipment loads to LMG LLC. for approval.

Ballroom Rigging FAQ

1. **Am I required to use LMG LLC. to assemble my truss system or for the attachment of gear to the truss system?**
 - a. All qualified audio visual contractors may assemble truss systems as well as attach lighting, sound and projection equipment to truss system. A LMG LLC. technician is required to control (raise or

lower) chain motors at all times. (**Please also review Section 4 of this document regarding the use of ETCP certified riggers for certain applications.*)

2. Am I required to use LMG LLC. for ground supported applications in the Ballroom spaces?

- a. All qualified audio visual contractors may assemble and construct ground supported systems in the Ballroom spaces. (**Please also review Section 4 of this document regarding the use of ETCP certified riggers for certain applications.*)

Ballroom ceiling load limits:

- Heavy Load Points: Load limit is 1,000 lbs. per point. Rigging must be a dead hang only.
- Operable wall tracks: Load limit is 100 lbs. per hanger. Minimum distance between points is 4 feet.
- Soffits: Load limit is 40 lbs per hanger. Only approved soffit hangers may be used.
- NOT ALLOWED:
 - Rigging is not allowed from any other facility element not listed above.
 - Rigging or staging is not allowed which obstructs service access or fire exits.

Exhibit Halls 4ABC (South Halls):

- Rigging in Exhibit Halls 4ABC requires that all hang-points have a 360 degree wrap of protection around the fireproofed structural trusses, and are clear of all sprinkler heads, wireless access points, and lighting structures.
- Beams: Load limit from bottom chord truss is 1600 lbs per point. Minimum distance between points is 4 feet. Hanging from bottom chord truss may bridle at no more than 45 degrees.
- Purlines (spreaders between trusses): Hanging from purlines must be a dead hang only. Load limit from purlines is 200 lbs per point. Minimum distance between points is 4 feet.
- Catwalk: Hanging from catwalks must be a dead hang (vertical) only. Load limit from catwalks is 200 lbs per hanger. Minimum distance between hangers is 25 feet. Maximum of three (3) hangers per 100 feet.
- Airwall Tracks: Hanging from an airwall track must be a dead hang only. Load limit from airwall tracks is 200 lbs. per point. Minimum distance between points is 4 feet. Rigging from airwall tracks shall be with approved hangers only.
- NOT ALLOWED:
 - Rigging is not allowed from any fixtures other than catwalks, beams, and airwall tracks.
 - Rigging is not allowed from the high steel.
 - Rigging is not allowed from vertical cross members between top and bottom chord truss.
 - Beam insulation may not be removed.

Exhibit Hall 4D (Sky Bridge):

- The Structural Tubes are the only elements available for any significant rigging loads. All installations must have a protective wrap of carpet around the structural tube(s) to shield it from the rigging gear.
- Structural Tubing: Load limit is 2,500 lbs. per point. Minimum distance between points is 30 feet. Maximum weight per Truss Line is 7,500 lbs.
- Lighting Cables: Minimal hanging of banners or other lightweight décor may be allowed with specific advance approval of the Event Manager. Load limit is 25 lbs per item. Maximum of 3 items per light cable.
- NOT ALLOWED:
 - Rigging is not allowed that will obstruct the HVAC vents.
 - Movement of permanently installed theatrical lighting units is not permitted.

Exhibit Halls 4EF (North Halls):

- Rigging in Exhibit Halls 4EF requires that all hang-points have a 360 degree wrap of protection around the structural trusses, and are clear of all sprinkler heads, wireless access points and lighting structures.
- Use of the rigging access panels at the entrance to Hall 4E will incur a usage fee.
- Main Truss (runs North/South): Load limit is 2,500 lbs per point. Minimum distance between points is 30 feet. Maximum weight per truss line is 20,000 lbs. Rigging is only allowed from the bottom chord of the truss line.
- Truss Bracing (runs East/West): Load limit is 2,500 lbs per point. Minimum distance between points is 30 feet. Maximum weight per brace line is 20,000 lbs. Rigging is only allowed from the bottom chord of the truss line.
- Catwalk: Hanging from catwalks must be a dead hang (vertical) only. Load limit from catwalks is 200 lbs per hanger. Minimum distance between hangers is 25 feet. Maximum of three (3) hangers per 100 feet.
- Airwall Tracks: Hanging from an airwall track must be a dead hang only. Load limit from airwall tracks is 200 lbs. per point. Minimum distance between points is 4 feet. Rigging from airwall tracks shall be with approved hangers only.
- NOT ALLOWED:
 - Rigging is not allowed from high steel, vertical steel or diagonal bracing.
 - Rigging is not allowed that exceeds a total of 2,500 lbs. on a truss and adjacent brace. Loads must be a full section apart.

Lobbies and Galleria Area:

- Banners may be suspended above the level 4 South escalators from the Galleria handrails, provided they are affixed at the base of the handrail and allow for a minimum clearance of 9 feet above the escalators.
- Permanently installed rails with adjustable hanging loops are provided on the North Levels 2, 3, and 4 for installation of banners.
- Eye bolts are installed on the Grand Escalator wall in the Atrium Lobby for banner placement.
- NOT ALLOWED:
 - No rigging is allowed on Level 1
 - No commercial or sponsorship signage or banners are allowed in lobbies or public areas without advance approval of the Event Manager. Signage fees may apply.

Meeting Rooms and Hallways:

- There are no weight bearing points in meeting rooms or hallways.

The Conference Center (TCC):

- Tahoma Level: There are 150 permanently installed rigging points located throughout Level 3. These points are provided by eyebolts installed every 15 feet on the steel beams. Maximum weight is 1,000 pounds per point. There is no limit on how many points may be used simultaneously.
- Skagit, Chelan, Yakima Levels: There are no weight bearing points in meeting rooms or hallways.
- PSAV must provide and install airwall track hangers. Maximum weight is 100 pounds per hangers
- NOT ALLOWED:
 - Rigging is not allowed from the airwall tracks or steel beams.
 - Rigging or staging is not allowed which obstructs service access or fire exits.

2. Requirements for Ground Supported Rigging

- Free-standing items may not obstruct mandatory exit aisles, doorways, exit lights, AED devices, fire alarm pull boxes, fire hose cabinets, or fire extinguishers.
- Support legs must be positioned, marked or otherwise protected to avoid trip hazards.
- Items may not block necessary service access into the room.
- Certified Riggers may be required for ground supported rigging.

3. Certified Rigger Requirements

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) is an industry-wide program created by the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA). ETCP certification focuses on installation activities that directly affect the health and safety of crews, performers, and audiences and requires compliance with OSHA and other laws. ETCP certified riggers have met experience and training eligibility requirements and passed rigorous testing to ensure proper installation of rigging to temporarily suspend objects from overhead structures in any environment. More information on ETCP certification requirements can be found here: <http://etcp.esta.org/> or by contacting the WSCC Vice President of Operations.

Any rigging at the Center, either ground supported or aerial as listed in Section 4, must be installed by ETCP certified riggers. An ETCP certified rigger must be identified by the liable service provider as the Rigging Supervisor for all installations. This Rigging Supervisor must submit inspection and approval documents assuring that all rigging for each event, whether aerial or ground supported, is installed in a safe and effective manner, meeting all requirements, policies and procedures of the Center. *(Example: The AV contractor responsible for a general session production must identify, by name, the ETCP certified rigger acting as the Rigging Supervisor for their production installation. This Rigging Supervisor must be on the Center's approved rigger list, and must submit a signed acknowledgement of compliance with Center rigging rules and regulations.)*

Certified riggers may be employed by service contractors authorized by the event license holder or secured from labor organizations that are signatories to the WSCC Labor Council Agreement. All service providers and labor organizations must submit their ETCP certified rigger documentation to the WSCC Director of Operations at least one week prior to working in the facility. This documentation will be accepted at the Security Entrance, by mail or email. The Center will maintain an approved list of names and certification expiration dates for all ETCP certified riggers at the Security Entrance. Once an individual has been accepted on the Center's approved list of certified riggers, it is not necessary to re-submit documentation unless the certification expiration date passes.

Upon arrival at the Center for rigging duty, certified riggers must show identification and be on the approved ETCP rigger list. WSCC Security will issue the rigger a specific wristband that allows performance of rigging installations within the facility. Any rigger who is not visibly wearing the appropriate wristband will be required to immediately stop working and will be asked to go to Security Control for verification. Repeat offenses of rigging without a visible wristband will be cause for permanent removal from the approved list.

4. Installations Requiring a Certified Rigger

The information below is provided as a summary of common objects and apparatus that the Center requires a certified rigger to install. Each event may have special needs that cannot be addressed specifically in this document. Please consult your Event Manager if you have questions.

Aerial Rigging:

Signage & Banners:

- Individual Vinyl / Foam Core Signs or Banners (over 100 lbs)
- Ceiling Hung Rigid Framed Signs or Displays (over 100 lbs)
- Bridle or Side Load Signage Rigging (all weights)
- Ceiling Hung Motorized/Rotating Signs (all weights)
- Chain Hoists or Powered Devices used to hang Signage (all weights)
- Air Wall (operable wall) Track Hangers and all attached components (all weights)
- Any signage secured by means of Beam Clamp (all weights)

Lights, Sound, Projection, Props, Equipment, & Drapery:

- Bridle or Side Load Rigging (all weights)
- Ceiling Hung Props or Decorations (over 10 lbs)
- Ceiling Hung Truss - Hoist, Sling, Choker, Cable, Basket, Span Set, and Beam Clamp point connections or other rigging hardware attached to building or truss. (all weights)
- Catwalk Hung Lighting, Sound, Projection, Props secured by means of built-in Clamp (over 10 lbs)

- Operable Wall Track Hangers and all attached components (all weights)
- Attachment of all objects to truss by means of Cable, Sling, Span Set, Wire, Rope, Shackle or other non-clamping device (over 10 lbs)
- Items secured to truss (while on ground), by means of Clamp (over 25 lbs)
- Soft Goods Hardware with live loads, such as Pulleys and Traveler Tracks (all weights)
- Any object that requires the use of a ladder or lift to attach to a truss, rigging bar or other apparatus after it has been flown. (all weights)

Ground Supported Rigging:

- Lighting, Sound, Projection or other equipment hung with a trimmed height greater than 12 feet, that are attached to a load-bearing apparatus by means of Cable, Sling, Span Set, Wire, Rope, Shackle or other non-clamping device (over 10 lbs)
- Items secured to truss (while on ground), by means of Clamp (over 25 lbs)
- Items attached to Ground Supported System that require the use of a lift or ladder (all weights)
- All ground supported installations with a trim height greater than 12 feet must be inspected and approved by a certified rigger, even if no individual component exceeds the weights limits described above. *(Example: A truss system at 14 feet trim height with ten par cans weighing five pounds each. The individual lights do not need to be attached by certified rigger because they are under the 25 lb limit for clamp on devices, but the entire truss package needs to be inspected and approved by the Rigging Supervisor because it is above 12 feet trim.)*

5. Exclusions to Certified Rigger Requirements

WSSC does not require the use of certified riggers for the on-ground movement or assembly of equipment associated with rigging installations, such as truss, signage framing or props. However, all objects attached to a truss or other load-bearing apparatus must be inspected and approved by the identified certified Rigging Supervisor as specified above.

**For the purpose of training apprentice riggers to accumulate the necessary hours required to apply for ETCP rigging certification, contractors may utilize one non-certified rigging technician per three ETCP certified riggers on the same call. ETCP certified riggers must review and certify all work performed during training.