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Fly Paper

Special points of interest:

- Flexibility In Rigging Systems
- Vicarious Liability
- Standards Watch
- Inspection Schedules

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The Price Of Being Flexible



Why in the world does a loudspeaker rigging hardware system cost so much?

There are numerous factors involved with the cost of manufacturing high-risk structural products such as loudspeaker suspension systems. Perhaps the most influential is the amount of flexibility designed into the system itself. The table above represents a suspension system for a loudspeaker array of several enclosures. The base cost on a basic system with tilt adjustment only is \$1000. As additional flexibility is added to the system, the total cost increases.

Another large influence on the cost of a suspension system is found in product traceability controls. Product traceability systems track material content, manufacturing processes, and quality controls. Some estimates show

Total Cost	Tilt Function	Pan Function	Proximity Function	Rotation Function
\$1000	1000		Not Actual Prices	
\$1500	1000	+500		
\$2000	1000	+500	+500	
\$3000	1000	+500	+500	+1000

systems to account for up to 30% of the cost of product manufacture. Even with these extreme costs, a reputable manufacturer would not be caught dead without a traceability system in force at all times in order to protect itself and its clients from product liability claims.

A final major influence on cost of manufacture is identified within design factors. A part that is intended to suspend 1000 Kg must be designed to maintain structural integrity when loaded up to 5000 Kg; a design factor of 5:1.

Vicarious Liability



Does the idea of being held responsible for the ill-judgment of another party scare you? Inject this concept into the world of suspending objects overhead and there is cause for concern.

Recently a court decision has held an employer responsible for damages resulting from an off-duty employee using their company-issued cell phone for personal business. The employee was driving at the time and caused a major accident as a result.

Here's something to think about: Next time you invest in the proper rigging system to do the job safely and expediently, and you deliver the system to an installer who then uses his best judgment to install the system, will you be responsible if the installer makes a bad judgment call?

The best defense against vicarious liability claims is a sound offense. Develop policies for purchasing and installing rigging hardware, then educate those around you.

Standards Watch

BSR E1.8 Entertainment Technology—Loudspeaker Enclosures Intended for Overhead Suspension—Classification, Manufacture and Structural Testing; has been forwarded to the Technical Standards Committee for release to public review. Check www.ESTA.org for a copy of BSR E1.8 and additional standards information.

Inspection and Maintenance Schedules

All reputable rigging manufacturers require regular inspections. Keep a written log of the inspections and any maintenance performed to prove products are not abused.

Sound & Video Rigging Systems