

Regulations for Rigging hanging structures in exhibition halls

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Note

The pertinent ntp regulations can be found on the official website of the national institute for occupational safety and health at work, pertaining to the ministry of employment and social security. Please see below the corresponding links.
<http://www.insht.es/portal/site/Insht/>

NTP 155

http://www.insht.es/InshtWeb/Contenidos/Documentacion/FichasTecnicas/NTP/Ficheros/101a200/ntp_155.pdf

NTP 221

http://www.insht.es/InshtWeb/Contenidos/Documentacion/FichasTecnicas/NTP/Ficheros/201a300/ntp_221.pdf

NTP 861

<http://www.insht.es/InshtWeb/Contenidos/Documentacion/FichasTecnicas/NTP/Ficheros/856a890/861w.pdf>

NTP 866

<http://www.insht.es/InshtWeb/Contenidos/Documentacion/FichasTecnicas/NTP/Ficheros/856a890/866w.pdf>

Regulations

1. Purpose

This purpose of this document (the "Regulations") is to set out the requirements for any elements to be rigged to or hung from any structure in IFEMA MADRID's exhibition halls. The Regulations are intended to ensure the safety of people and facilities, during both the assembly and disassembly stages, as well as that of the finished structure during any event..

2. Scope

The Regulations govern all rigging components used to hoist any element from the structure of IFEMA MADRID's exhibition halls.

Rigging materials covered in the Regulations include hoisting and hanging elements. Other hanging elements from these are not covered.

3. Tarpaulin installations weighing under 0.05 Kn/m²

Installations of signs whose necessary materials for their rigging weigh less than **0.05 Kn/m²** (5 kg/m²) shall be exempt from the approval procedure. These canvases will be attached directly to the trusses without any intermediate elements such as trusses, pulley blocks, motors, or other components.

All signs must have at least three rigging points. They must be rigged as indicated in point 2 of the Manual.

4. General installation conditions for the other elements

Companies that are exhibiting and/or assembling signs must rig their elements on the points installed by IFEMA MADRID, in accordance with the request submitted by the former. From these points, all rigged elements must comply with the characteristics stipulated following the procedure specified in this document.

The structure to be rigged must be designed in such a way as not to compromise the safety of persons or the installations, both during the assembly phase and in the finished structure. The main objectives and requirements for any element hanging from the structure of IFEMA MADRID's exhibitions are as follows:

- Exhibition hall structures bearing loads transferred from hanging elements have higher safety structures than those laid down in prevailing regulations.
- The safety factors of hanging elements shall be higher than those laid down in prevailing regulations. This applies to all elements hanging from the points installed by IFEMA MADRID, whether structural, rigging or merely decorative.
- Loads transferred to the structure during stand assembly due to hoisting of elements or any other assembly or dismantling may not subject the halls to lower safety factors than those set out in prevailing regulations.
- Materials used must be of good quality and in good condition, as guaranteed by compliance with the regulations outlined in section 5 of the Regulations and any another applicable regulations..
- Any steel cables used must have a diameter of at least 6 mm. Nylon elements must have a minimum tensile strength of 7 kN (700 kg).
- Structures must be fitted with a safety system comprising enough stress-free steel cables to support the load if the main cables break. The diameter of these cables must be at least 8 mm and equal to or greater than the diameter of the main cables. These elements shall be installed by IFEMA MADRID together with the rigging points, leaving enough length for their subsequent use. Safety cables will be installed in any structure or hanging element immediately after it is hoisted.
- The safety cables must be arranged to prevent stress in their final structure. Accordingly, they must be placed with a length limiting maximum play to less than 15 cm. The full installation of the safety cable shall be performed by IFEMA MADRID under any type of contract.
- The full installation of the safety cable shall be performed by IFEMA MADRID under any type of contract.
- Any elements hanging from a truss or structure (e.g. spotlights, loudspeakers, motors, sheathing, truss weights) must have a safety system consisting of steel cables.
- Exhibitors may only use the hanging points located in the vertical line of the space occupied by the stand. Where such points must be located outside this area, authorisation by IFEMA MADRID is required.
- There must be at least two rigging points for each assembly.

5. Procedure for requesting authorisation to hang elements from hall structures

The procedure for exhibitors wishing to hang elements from any of the rigging points provided by IFEMA MADRID in the structure of exhibition halls is as follows:

- The rigging request form hosted at www.ifema.es/soporte shall be completed with the minimum content specified in section 6 of this document. The rigging control company will request the complete rigging project: plans, an Excel spreadsheet with the anticipated loads for the installation, duly completed with the corresponding cells for those loads, in addition to the elements to be contracted with IFEMA MADRID: hanging points, lifting components, trusses, etc.
- The due date for receiving projects is one month prior to the start of assembly for the event being requested. Any applications received thereafter might not be considered, and thus not be authorised to hang riggings from the hall structures.
- Projects received shall be reviewed for compliance with IFEMA MADRID's rules and regulations and the conditions laid out in the Regulations.
- IFEMA MADRID shall issue a ruling on the application within seven days from receipt. Potential rulings include:
 - i. Application approved. The exhibitor may perform the assembly shown on the application form. Approval of an application implies authorisation for assembly only. Neither IFEMA MADRID, nor companies participating in inspection of the assembly, assume any responsibility for the project.
 - ii. Application with remarks. The exhibitor must adapt the project in accordance with IFEMA MADRID's remarks and resend it for a new review. Remarks may refer to any aspect of the installation; e.g. the need to increase the number of force transmission points, reduce the amount of each, change location, change materials.
 - iii. Application rejected. Applications that fail to comply with the conditions outlined in this manual are denied.
- Once the hanging project has been approved, IFEMA MADRID will invoice the requesting company (Exhibitor, assembly company, organiser) for the requested services according to current rates, considering the requirements specified in the project as a firm request for these services. If there are any modifications to the approved project, the inspected points in the new project will be invoiced
- The client may proceed with the assembly on the dates scheduled for each event. The assembly must be exactly as approved in the application. Any changes must receive prior approval by IFEMA MADRID.
- Applicants must have the project approval document and copies of approved plans available at all times during assembly.
- IFEMA MADRID technicians or technicians of companies contracted for assembly must ensure that the assembly adheres to the approved projects. Assembly of installations that are not specifically set out in the approved projects is forbidden.
- If during the assembly of any element there are reasonable doubts about their suitability, IFEMA MADRID may require viability tests. The costs of such test shall be borne by the exhibitor.

6. Minimum content of rigging projects

Projects attached to rigging authorisation applications must provide precise definitions of any elements to be rigged. The minimum documentation, depending on the type of installation, is detailed below.

6.1. Application form for authorisation to hang structures

Where only unsheathed truss-type structures are to be rigged, together with individual objects, the following documentation must be provided:

- Explanatory brief of the installation to be carried out.
- Description of the assembly provided it involves transferring loads to the structure.
- Weight values all elements comprising the rigging system (e.g. spotlights, loudspeakers, motors, sheathing, truss weights).
- Scale diagrams showing floor and elevation measurements of the installation, indicating the location and situation of each rigging point for hanging elements and the hall structure. Appendix 1 of this manual provides an example.
- Value of the load transferred by each hanging point.
- List of materials to be used for structural purposes.

- Responsible declaration of approval for materials used in the assembly of said structure (can be found at www.ifema.es/soporte)
- Description of the safety system used, doubling the capacity of the original system.
- Signed documentation by an officer from the installing company.

6.2. Signage weighing less than 0.05 Kn/m² (5 kg/m²)

Signage elements (tarpaulins / canvases) whose necessary materials for their rigging weigh less than **0.05 Kn/m²** (5 kg/m²) shall be exempt from the approval procedure if they use at least three support points. These types of elements will be attached directly to the trusses without intermediate components such as trusses, pulley blocks, motors, or other elements

6.3. Other riggings

Where authorisation applications are submitted to rig elements other than those described in the preceding sections, the minimum documentation required is listed in section 6.1, in addition to an assembly review project and a sworn structural supervision declaration available on the Ifema Madrid website. It is also possible to submit a certificate after inspection, endorsed by the corresponding professional association, signed by a competent technician, describing and justifying the structural safety of the elements to be hung. This certificate must be submitted on the days allocated for setting up the event in which you are participating

7. Conditions for project acceptance

All projects that comply with the following conditions will be accepted:

- Minimum project content must be as specified in section 6 of this document.
- Reviews of project content must not uncover errors.
- During analysis of the project and applications, and of the structure of the halls involved, safety factors must meet prevailing regulations.
- Suitable materials must be used to transfer loads safely.
- Sworn Declaration of the rigging material used.
- Assembly procedures must be followed that do not damage the structure of the exhibition hall or pose a threat to the safety of people or the facilities.

All project data shall be presented in accordance with the International System of Measuring Units and provided in Spanish or English.

8. Mandatory regulations

- UNE EN 13414. Steel wire cable slings. Safety.
- UNE-EN 1677. Series of regulations for sling accessories. Safety.
- UNE-EN 12385:2003. Steel cables. Safety.
- UNE-EN 13411:2002. Steel cable grips. Safety.
- 17115/2019 entertainment technologies. Specifications for the design and manufacture of steel and aluminium trusses
 - Structural code.
- CTE. Technical building code.

9. Quality Documentation To Be Submitted With Projects

The installers must complete the responsible declaration regarding the rigging material they plan to use for the assemblies.



DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RIGGING EQUIPMENT USED IN THE PROJECT

In Madrid, _____ the _____ the 20__

I, _____, with national ID (DNI)/Passport number
_____, representing _____
with Tax ID no _____ declare under my responsibility that:

- I am familiar with the rigging regulations of IFEMA MADRID that are available at: www.ifema.es/soporte.
- With respect to the slings to be used, no more than 5 years has passed since their manufacture.
- All the items (cables, slings, brakes, pulleys, motors, trusses, etc.) that form part of the project have their corresponding certificates of approval.

Signature

10. Collaboration with inspections

IFEMA MADRID may carry out any inspections it deems fit during assembly. Installers must facilitate any such inspections. To this end, they must make available to the appointed inspectors any auxiliary means they are using, such as lifting baskets, scaffolds, ladders or others.

11. Communication between IFEMA MADRID and applicants

Requests for authorisation to hang items shall be submitted using the form provided for this purpose. Similarly, any modification or documentation claim shall be submitted via rigging@ifema.es. No communications will be accepted by any other means.

Manual

1. Purpose

On 1 September 2025, mandatory regulations regarding the hanging structures in IFEMA MADRID's exhibitions halls came into force. The Regulations are designed to provide a series of guidelines for drafting authorisation applications and for assembly and dismantling operations of hanging elements. The contents of the Regulations are complemented by the aforementioned mandatory regulations. In the event of discrepancy between the two, the mandatory regulations shall prevail.

2. Installation of signage tarpaulins/canvases

Before performing your installation in the hall, you will first need to fill out the form that will be provided to you by the hall manager.

To hang signs, materials must be chosen that will not damage the structure of the exhibition hall by adopting measures such as the protection of slings with rubber.

Supports on exhibition hall structures must be designed so as not to damage the structures. The main rules applicable in this respect are as follows:

- Rigging elements must be arranged vertically when the structure permits, except in exhibition halls 12, 14.0 and 14.1 where vertical loads are mandatory in all cases.
- Support must be provided by a simple steel sling.
- Steel thimbles must be fitted at both ends.
- Any parts of cables that come into contact with the structure of the exhibition halls must be covered with a PVC, reinforced polyurethane or other plastic material sleeve to protect both the cables and the structure paint.
- Slings may not rest on the sharp edges of the structure. To prevent this, protection corner pieces and brackets must be inserted between the sharp edges and the cable.

3. Installation of other elements

3.1. Acceptable rigging locations

Elements may only be installed from the points provided by IFEMA MADRID after an authorisation request has been submitted from the exhibitor or assembler. The following elements, amongst others, may not be hung:

- Installation elements (e.g. ducts, channels, lighting elements, etc.).
- Elements from other rigged elements (e.g. informative panels, etc.).
- Secondary elements of the structure (e.g. belts, bracing, etc.).
- The use of manual pulley blocks will not be permitted in projects with single structures with more than 4 hanging points

If for the requested rigging points to be hung vertically, indispensable pre-rigging elements must be installed, the exhibitor will be invoiced for this pre-rigging at the established rates.

3.2. Maximum loads permitted for structures

The maximum hanging load at each point shall be 5 kN (500 kg) at beams connections in exhibition halls 1 through 10 and 2.5 kN (250 kg) at positions between connections. In hall 12 the maximum load shall be 3.0 kN (300 kg) in hall 14.0, the maximum load will be 3.5 kN (350 kg); and in hall 14.1, the maximum load will be 2.5 kN (250 kg).

3.3. Acceptable materials

Cables and slings made of steel, nylon or a combination of the two may be used to hang elements.

Nylon slings may be used provided that the safety cable system described in Section 6 is made of steel, so that the system is sufficiently stable in the event of a fire.

Slings must have a loop or eye at each end. This can be obtained by means of a forged end fitting, a conic end fitting, a pressure-fit ferrule (sleeve) or a welded end ferrule. All loops must be formed using thimbles.

The use of cable clamps to form loops in slings and safety cables will not be permitted.

The company must check the conditions of slings along their entire length before they are positioned. Slings that are unsuitable or were manufactured more than five years prior, cannot be used.

Cables with broken, loose, frayed, knotted, folded or kinked wires cannot be used.

Slings where the end fittings, ferrules or thimbles are damaged or bent are considered unsuitable and may not be used for rigging in the exhibition halls.

Sworn Declaration of the rigging material used.

The manufacturer, or its representative established in the European Economic Community must issue a certificate that includes at least the following information:

- The manufacturer's name and address or that of its European Union representative.
- Geometrical specifications.
- For cables: the type and direction of wiring (braiding to the right or left, preformed or not, crossed or Lang type), the wiring feedthrough, the manufacture (cable composition, nature and composition of the cable core, number of thin wires and number of wires). A section diagram with measurements.
- Material specifications. For cables: nominal wire tensile strength, minimum tensile strength, information about the nature of protection against internal and external corrosion (in the event of galvanization, the quality must be indicated), certification that the cable is manufactured in a single piece and that its specifications are the same along its entire length.
- Temperature limits for use of the cable.
- Maintenance and inspection regulations

Compliance with the following regulations is mandatory:

- UNE EN 13414:2004. Steel wire cable slings. Safety.
- UNE-EN 1677:2001. Series of regulations for sling accessories. Safety.
- UNE-EN 12385:2003. Steel cables. Safety.
- UNE-EN 13411:2002. Steel cable grips. Safety.
- CTE. Technical building code.

Compliance with the provisions in documents NTP 155, NTP 221, NTP 861 & NTP 866 is also recommended.

Only the use of truss-type structures will be allowed, where the joints between the different pieces are made with bolts, and bolted structures will not be permitted.

Flying elements made with wood:

- For covering flying elements, the use of MDF or chipboard panels will be allowed. The thickness of these panels must be equal to or less than 10 mm.
- They must be screwed to a metal or wooden substructure, which must be made of a minimum square section of 40x40 mm of natural wood. Joints and/or fixings made only with glue, nails, or staples will not be permitted
- All wood-based structures must have a metal skeleton to transfer the loads to the hanging point. Structures made only of wood are not authorized.
- Wooden structures with a metal substructure where the load transmission is made through wooden "crossbars" must be secured with metal slings in 1 out of every 2 as a safety element.

3.4. Safety cables

Safety cables must be put in place in all assemblies to prevent the hanging structure from collapsing if any element breaks. The following conditions must be satisfied:

- Safety cables must connect the structures rigged by the exhibitor to the structure of the exhibition hall.
- Once the two ends of the safety cables are fixed, they must be stress free.
- Their section must support the associated cable load plus 25% to factor in any sudden stress.
- Exhibitors must fix all structure or elements rigged immediately after they are hoisted.

- Safety cables must be positioned so that they are stress free in their final situation. The distance between the truss point and the hall structure point to which they are joined may not exceed 15 cm.
- Slings and shackles must be used to fix safety cables to the structure of the exhibition halls. Staples (cable grips) or any other duly approved system must be used at the other end.

3.5. Reaction calculations procedure during assemblies

Applications for authorisation to hang structures must contain data on the loads to be transferred to the structure at each requested rigging point. To determine these values, the real weight of each hanging component and their distribution must be taken into consideration. Depending on the characteristics of the system to be installed, the use of one of the following procedures will be admitted:

- An estimate of reactions via distribution by load areas. This simplified procedure is only allowed where the load per point is lower than 3 kN (300 kg). A diagram showing the location of each weight and justification of their value is also required. The procedure consists of distributing load areas and assigning the corresponding loads to each point. Appendix 1 of the Regulations includes an example of its application.
- An estimate of reactions via a structural model. This is the standard and mandatory model for systems with loads of over 3 kN (300 kg).

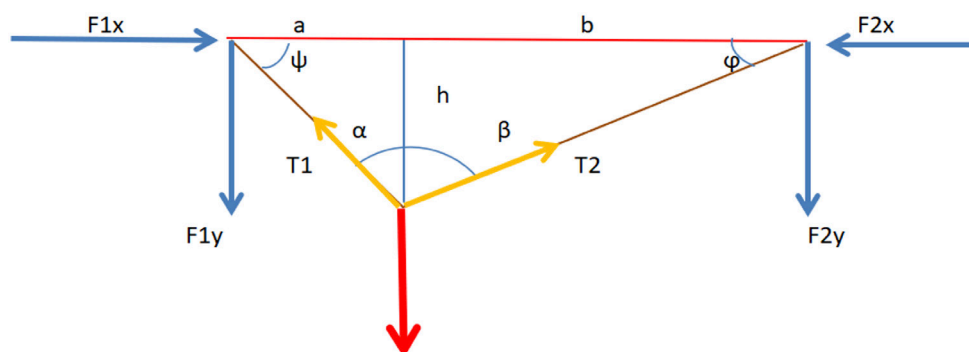
In the authorisation request, under the "Attach Project" section, an Excel file must be included with the calculated load cells, as well as the distance to the right and left from the reflected point to the trusses (lines of the roof structures). The results obtained must always be lower than the maximum loads permitted for each of the roof structures.



Distribution of Loads in Roof Trusses

POINT	LOAD KG	DISTANCE LEFT	DISTANCE RIGHT	h (m)	LOAD TRANSMITTED TO THE STRUCTURE			
					LEFT TRUSS		RIGHT TRUSS	
					Vertical load (kg)	Horizontal load	Vertical load	Horizontal load
P1	100	0	10	2,20	100,00	0,00	0,00	-
P2	125	2	8	2,20	100,00	90,91	25,00	90,91
P3	150	4	6	2,20	90,00	163,64	60,00	163,64
P4	175	5	5	2,20	87,50	198,86	87,50	198,86
P5	200	6	4	2,20	80,00	218,18	120,00	218,18
P6	225	8	2	2,20	45,00	163,64	180,00	163,64
P7	250	10	0	2,20	0,00	0,00	250,00	-
P8			10	2,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	-
P9			10	2,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	-
P10			10	2,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	-
P11			10	2,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	-
P12			10	2,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	-
P13			10	2,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	-
P14			10	2,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	-
P15			10	2,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	-

It is located at: <https://www.ifema.es/web/formularios/reparto-cargas-cerchas.xlsx>



For projects that include screens weighing more than 9.81 kN (1,000 kg), the project must include the loads that arise during the different phases of assembly and disassembly, even if they are partially or fully supported on the floor once assembly is complete

3.6. Procedure during assemblies

Installing companies authorised to hang elements that will be suspended in any exhibition hall must contact the hall manager for authorisation before commencing any assembly.

Only installations that comply strictly with the project approved by IFEMA MADRID will be authorised. Any required on site modifications must also receive prior authorisation by IFEMA MADRID.

IFEMA MADRID may carry out any inspections it deems fit during assembly. Installers must provide all necessary means for such inspections. To this end, they must make available to the appointed inspectors any auxiliary means being used, such as lifting baskets, scaffolds, ladders or others.

THE REQUEST WILL BE ONLINE THROUGH THE EXPO AREA: [HTTPS://WWW.IFEMA.ES/EN/DOC/REQUEST-RIGGING---RECINTO-FERIAL/SOLICITUD-RIGGING-RECINTO-ING.PDF](https://www.ifema.es/en/doc/request-rigging---recinto-ferial/solicitud-rigging-recinto-ing.pdf)

Stand information

Fair: Example 2012

Stand number: 7B11

Name of exhibitor: IFEMA MADRID

Contact details of the managers:

Phone number and e-mail address of the project and rigging managers

666 555 444 - 91 333 22 11 - inspección.rigging@ifema.es

Rigging start date: 12-12-2012

Description of the rigging installation

The installation will consist of a square 30x30 cm aluminum truss structure of 10 meters by 7 meters. On that structure there will be 40 lights and two corporate banners. The structure will be carried by 4 motor hoists.

For the security cable system, there will be four cables at the same position as the chain hoists.

Materials to use

- Square aluminum truss 30x30 cm by TRUSS brand (included all auxiliary elements).
- Electric motor hoists for 500 kg by MOTOR brand.
- Steel ropes 6 mm diameter for tension cables (hanging cable), brand CABLE.
- Steel ropes 10 mm diameter for free tension cables (security cable), brand CABLE.
- Steel plastic protected ropes 10 mm diameter for contact to hall structure, brand CABLE.
- Lights 400 brand FOCO.
- Shackles, carabiners, and other auxiliary elements brand AUXILIAR.

*Sworn declaration hosted at www.ifema.es/soporte for the rigging material used in the project.

Weight values

The total weight of the assembly is distributed in four rigging points to the Hall beams:

Element	Unit weight	Quantity	Total weight
Motor hoist 500 kg	50 kg	4	200
Truss 30 x 30	5 kg/m	34	170
Corner 30 x 30	10 kg	4	40
Aux. truss elements	0,5 kg/m	34	17
Steel ropes	0,5 kg/m	40	20
Security cables	1,0 kg/m	25	25
Lights 400 W	12 kg	40	480
Banners	25 kg	2	50
TOTAL			1002

		ZONE 1		ZONE 2		ZONE 3		ZONE 4		TOTAL
Motor hoist 500 kg	50 kg	1	50	1	50	1	50	1	50	200
Truss 30 x 30	5 kg/m	8,5	42,5	8,5	42,5	8,5	42,5	8,5	42,5	170
Corner 30 x 30	10 kg	1	10	1	10	1	10	1	10	40
Aux. truss elements	0,5 kg/m	8,5	4,25	8,5	4,25	8,5	4,25	8,5	4,25	17
Steel ropes	0,5 kg/m	10	5	10	5	10	5	10	5	20
Security cables	1,0 kg/m	9	9	9	9	3,5	3,5	3,5	3,5	25
Lights 400 W	12 kg	5	60	5	60	5	60	25	300	480
Banners	25 kg	0,5	12,5	0,5	12,5	0,5	12,5	0,5	12,5	50
		TOTAL	193,25	TOTAL	193,25	TOTAL	187,75	TOTAL	427,75	1002

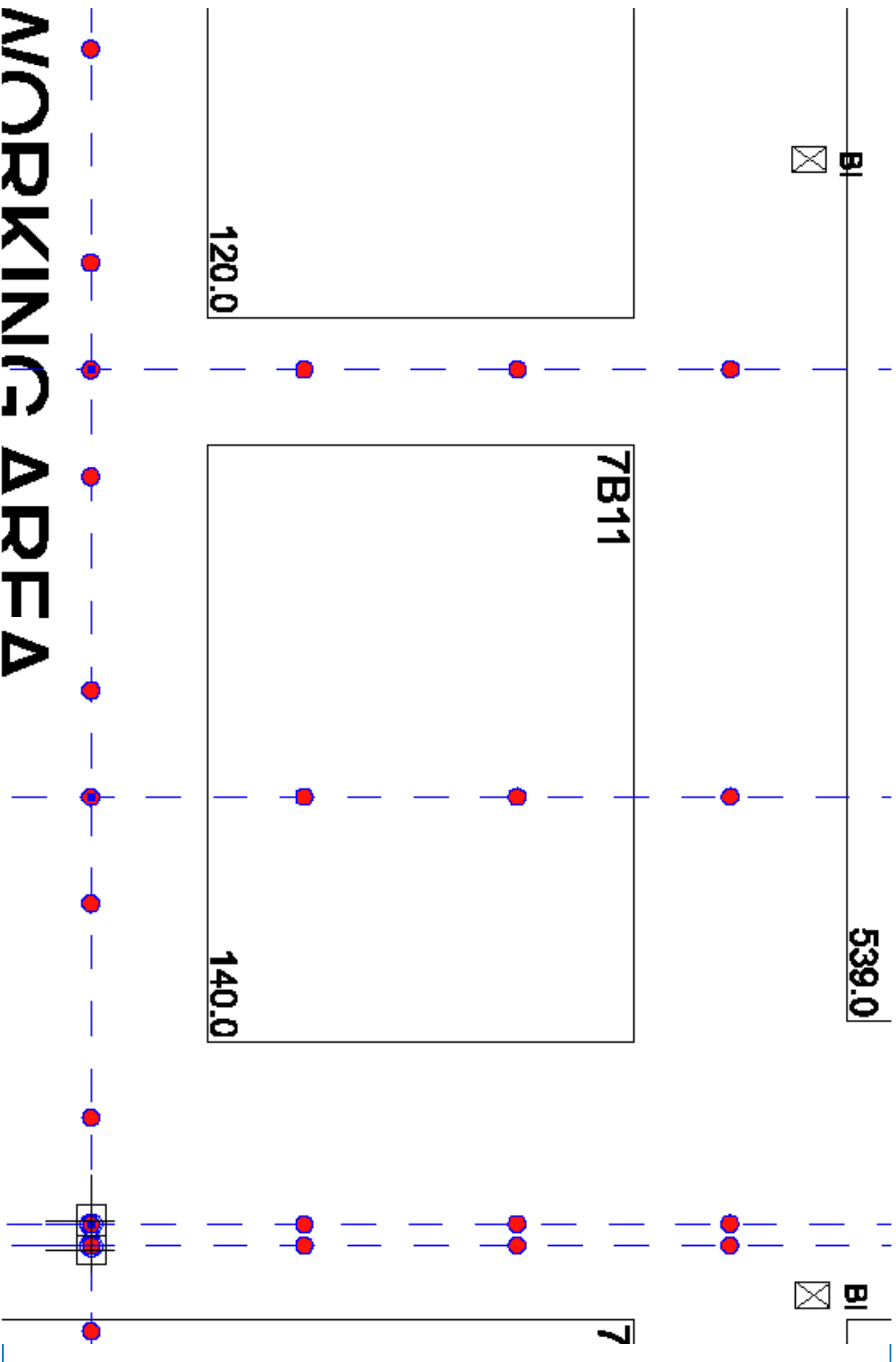
Given the total weight to be carried by chain hoists numbers 3 & 4, the sum of the load along the beam exceeds the 250 kg allowed by IFEMA regulations, so the truss connection points shown on the rigging plans must be used.

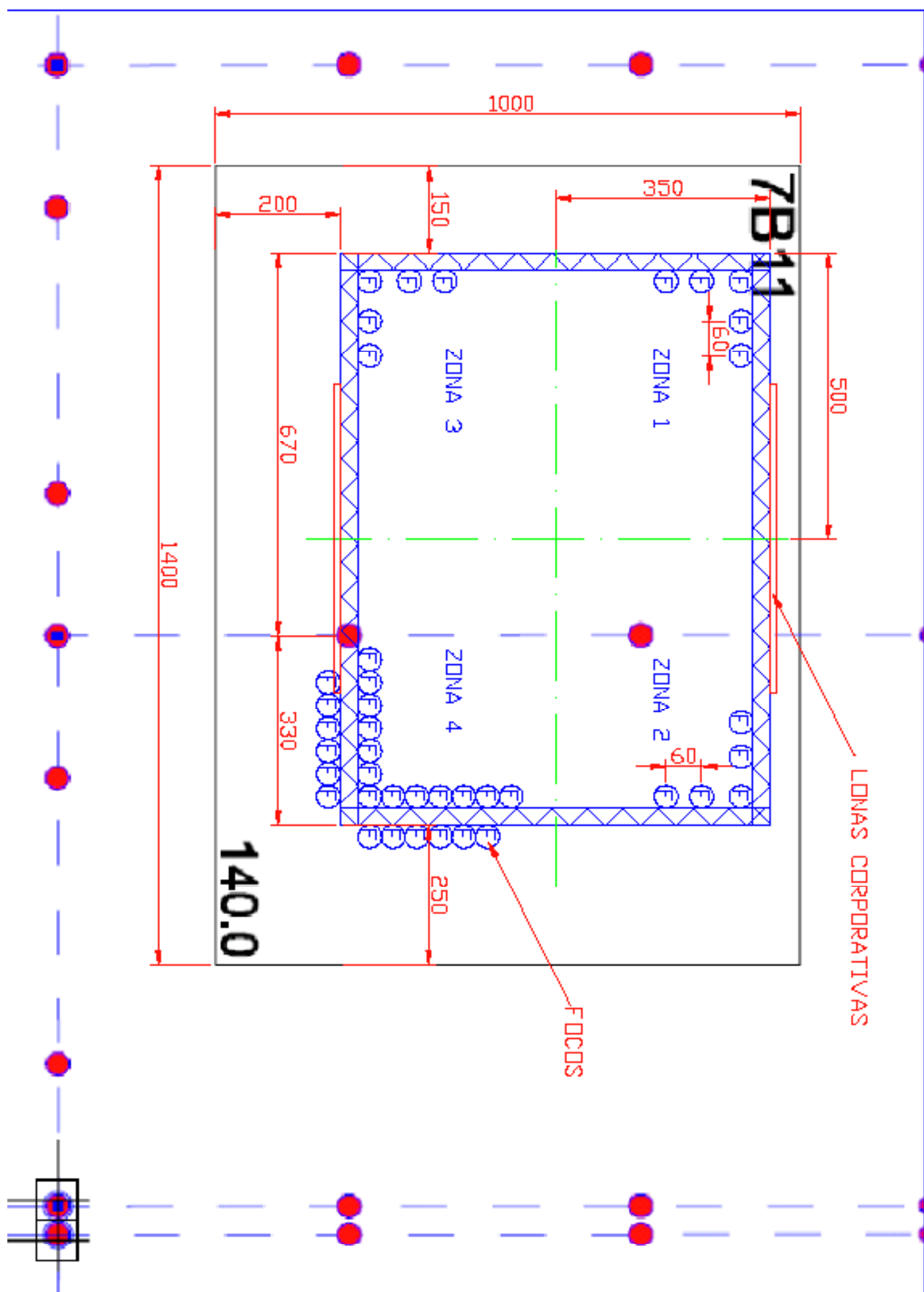
Security cable system

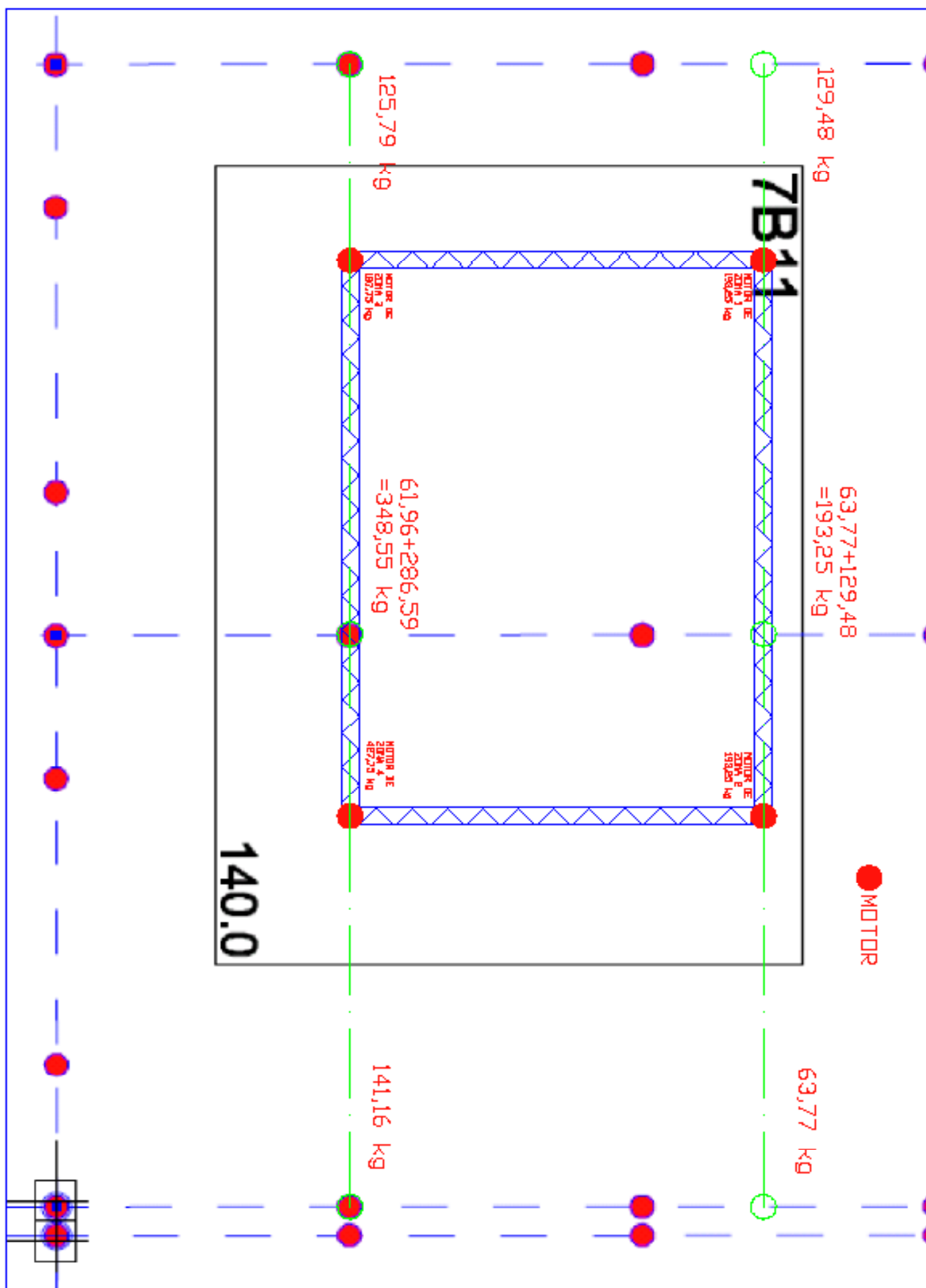
There will be four security cables in the assembly (free of tension). The cables will be with bridles to make secure the installation.

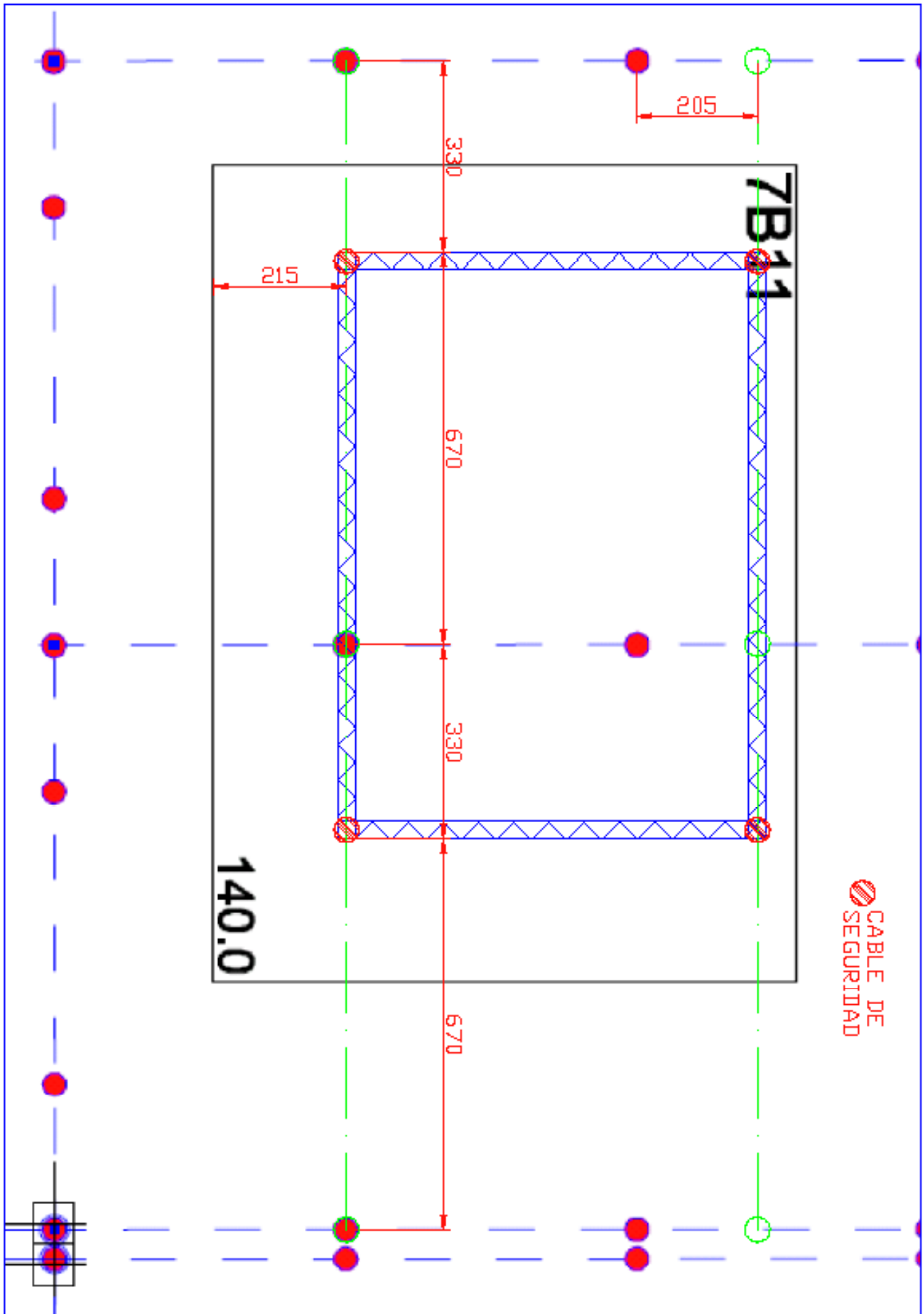
Attached

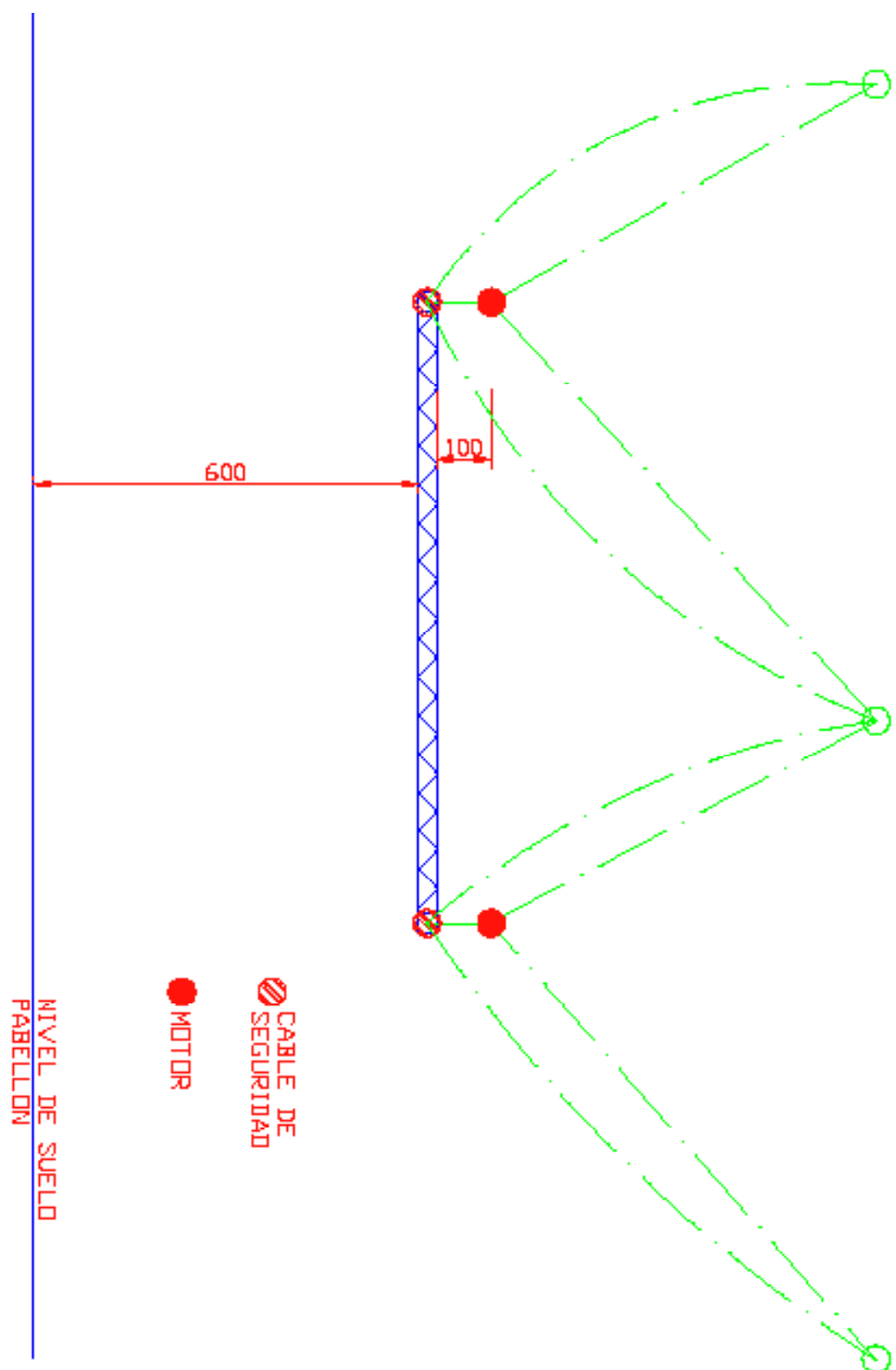
- Original structure plan.
- Measured element plans (top view, front view, right view).
- Measured plan with the weight per point and the weight to the beam (top view, front view, right view).
- Measured plans (top view, front view, right view) with the truss and motor hoists.
- Measured plans (top view, front view, right view) with the security cables.
- Sworn declaration for the materials to be used in the rigging project.
- Other stand decoration plans and additional information (optional).











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