

CLAIMS

1. A lifting beam for lifting a load, the lifting beam comprising:
 - an elongated beam having a first end, a second end and a midpoint;
 - a load balancing mechanism movably associated with the elongated beam and having a horizontal arm, a vertical arm and a counterweight attachment element, from which a counterweight can be hung;
 - a lifting ring connected to the elongated beam from which the lifting beam can be hung;
 - and a load attachment mechanism whereby the load is attachable to the lifting beam,
 - wherein the load balancing mechanism further comprises a counterweight movement apparatus adapted to move the counterweight along the elongated beam in order to help balance the load, and the elongated beam has a series of micro-switches along a bottom surface thereof the micro-switches arranged whereby an end of the horizontal arm will contact one of the switches in the case of undue tilting of the lifting beam and
 - wherein said vertical arm has a vertical attachment element which provides a non-rigid connection of the said horizontal arm.
2. The lifting beam according to claim 1, wherein the load balancing mechanism is adapted so that the counterweight can be replaced with a different counterweight.
3. The lifting beam according to claim 1, wherein the load balancing mechanism comprises a chain and a motor for moving the counterweight.
4. The lifting beam according to claim 1, wherein the load balancing mechanism comprises wheels for moving the counterweight.
5. The lifting beam according to claim 1, wherein the elongated beam further comprises mechanical stops adjacent the micro-switches.