CLAIMS:

1. A system comprising:

a lifting apparatus to be suspended from a holding apparatus, for gravitational levelling of the lifting apparatus by pivotal movement of the lifting apparatus relative to the holding apparatus,

a hydraulic cylinder to be mounted between the lifting apparatus and the holding apparatus, the hydraulic cylinder comprising first and second chambers connected together by a compensating line, and

a safety apparatus coupled to the hydraulic cylinder to monitor a pivotal angle of the lifting apparatus, and to limit the pivotal angle of the lifting apparatus deviating from a vertical straight line in two mutually opposite directions by blocking displacement of oil between the first and second chambers through the compensating line by the pivotal movement,

wherein swinging settlement of the lifting apparatus back in the direction of the vertical straight line by weight displacement in the lifting apparatus is damped by displacement of oil between the first and second chambers through the compensating line by a pivotal movement of the lifting apparatus back in the direction of the vertical straight line but otherwise remains unimpeded.

2. A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the safety apparatus has at least one sensor, at least one controlling unit and at least one blocking apparatus.

3. A system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one sensor is connected to the lifting apparatus.

4. A system as set forth in any one of claims 2 and 3, wherein the blocking apparatus is opened at a pivotal angle detected at the at least one sensor smaller than a predetermined first threshold value deviating from the vertical straight line in one of the two mutually opposite directions.

5. A system as set forth in any one of claims 2 through 4, wherein the blocking apparatus is closed at a pivotal angle detected at the at least one sensor greater than a

predetermined second threshold value deviating from the vertical straight line in one of the two mutually opposite directions.

6. A system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the lifting apparatus can be swingingly settled in the direction of the vertical straight line with the blocking apparatus blocked at both sides by way of a bridging apparatus.

7. A system as set forth in any one of claims 2 through 6, wherein at a pivotal angle detected at the at least one sensor between predeterminable first and second threshold values deviating from the vertical straight line a pivotal movement increasing the pivotal angle can be limited by a blocking apparatus and the pivotal movement back in the direction of the vertical straight line is damped by the displacement of oil between the first and second chambers through the compensating line but otherwise remains unimpeded.

8. A system as set forth in any one of claims 2 through 7, wherein the at least one blocking apparatus co-operates with the hydraulic cylinder and comprises at least two blocking valves.

9. A system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the blocking valves are arranged in co-operable relationship with at least two non-return valves on the compensating line.

10. A system as set forth in any one of claims 2 through 9, wherein the at least one sensor ascertains the angle of the lifting apparatus and forwards a value of said angle to the at least one controlling unit.

11. A system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the predeterminable first and second threshold values can be stored in the at least one controlling unit.

12. A system as set forth in any one of claims 9 through 11, wherein the through-flow from the first chamber to the second chamber can be closed or enabled in the hydraulic cylinder by one of the blocking valves in co-operating relationship with a non-return valve and the through-flow from the second chamber to the first chamber by the other blocking valve in co-operating relationship with a non-return valve.

13. A system as set forth in any one of claims 10 through 12, wherein the blocking valves are actuable individually or simultaneously by the at least one controlling unit and thus

a respective individual first or second chamber can be closed or enabled or said chambers can be simultaneously closed or enabled.

14. A system as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 13, wherein the lifting apparatus is in the form of a work cage.

15. A crane having a system as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 14.

16. A vehicle having a crane as set forth in claim 15.