# SLINGS AND RIGGING

1. Employees will be properly and thoroughly trained in the use of slings and rigging.
2. The entire length of the sling must be visually inspected prior to use, at regular intervals, and after any incident. Clean the sling before inspecting it. Dirt and grime can hide damage, especially on chain and wire rope. Slings will be relaxed when you inspect them. Damaged or defective slings must be discarded. When disposing of a defective or damaged sling, cut the sling in half or otherwise destroy it so there is no danger of it being reused.
3. When inspecting steel alloy chainslings, pay special attention to nicks, gouges, cracks, corrosion pits, stretching, and distorted or worn fittings. Replace the entire sling if any part is damaged, has more than 10% wear or 5% stretch, and if the hook is twisted more than 10 degrees or opened up more than 15% at the throat.
4. Wire rope slings must be replaced if there is severe corrosion, localized wear (shiny worn spots), a 1/3 reduction in outer wire diameter, excessive stretching, damage or displacement of end fittings, more than 10 broken wires in one lay, or evidence of damage to the rope structure such as kinking, crushing, birdcaging, or other distortion.
5. Do not use synthetic web slings that have burns, broken or worn stitches, excessive stretch, exposed warning stitches (usually red yarn), snags, punctures, tears or cuts, or distorted fittings.
6. Inspect for broken wires in metal mesh slings, lack of sling flexibility, kinks or twists in the edge, 25% reduction in wire diameter due to abrasion, and broken brazed joints or welds on the edge.
7. Store slings vertically on a rack of wall to minimize the risk of damage and for easy access.
8. Lift only from solid attachment points.
9. Before making the lift, make sure the weight and balance of the load are known and the sling is securely positioned around the load.
10. Guard against shock loading by taking up slack in the sling slowly.
11. Operators must know and must not exceed the working load limit (rated capacity) of the sling. The working load limit is calculated by dividing the breaking strength of the sling by five.
12. Do not lift items that exceed the working load limits of the sling.

## Safe Practices for Using Chains

1. Take up slack slowly and see that every link in the chain seats properly. Never put strain on a kinked chain. If the links do not slide freely within each other, the chain is damaged and must be removed from service.
2. Do not use a hammer to force a hook over a chain link.
3. See that the load is always properly set in the bowl of the hook.
4. Never attempt to repair the welded components on a sling. A broken chain must not be spliced with a bolt or any other type of coupling.

## Safe Practices for Using Wire Rope Slings

1. Lubricate the chain for longer service life. Before applying lubricant, make sure the sling is as dry and clean as possible. Lubricating a dirty or damp sling promotes corrosion.
2. Avoid bending wire rope around small radius bends.

## Safe Practices for Synthetic Web Slings.

1. Synthetic web slings cannot be repaired; damaged slings must be discarded.
2. Do not join slings by knotting. Stretching is the only accepted method of attaching end fitting or forming eyes.

3. If you hear a noise like popcorn popping when using a synthetic sling, it is a signal that the sling is breaking. Immediately set the load down, remove the sling, and inspect it.

## Safe Practices for metal Mesh Slings.

1. Do not twist or kink the edges of a metal mesh sling.
2. Never use knots, bolts, or any other unauthorized method to shorten a sling. Consult the manufacturer if it must be shortened..

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