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# **LEEA 084 - Guidance to the Manufacturer of One trip textile slings in the UK and the EEA**



**Guidance to the Manufacturer of One Trip Textile Slings in the UK and the EEA**

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## 1.0 Introduction

Depending on their final destination, all manufacturers of one trip textile slings are to comply with the Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSR's) of the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (SOM(S)R) for the UK market, or the national legislation that implements the Machinery Directive(MD) 2006/42/EC within the EEA. For use in other global areas, they -should comply with their relevant national legislation.

Within both the UK and the EEA, a harmonised EN standard will carry a presumption of conformity with the legal requirements for the supply of new lifting equipment manufactured in accordance with them. While LEEA strongly recommends full compliance with standards, we recognise that in some circumstances, there is a requirement for products that may deviate from the requirements of the general-purpose item covered by these harmonized standards.

This guidance outlines the provisions and rules that must be followed when deviating from the general rules of the legislation and harmonised standards.

## 2.0 Definition

The term 'One trip textile sling' is given to a woven textile sling that has been designed for the specific purpose of attaching to, and accompanying, a specific load (product) for its specified journey, from source to final destination.

They must not be used as a general-purpose sling or outside the limitations of use specified by the manufacturer, or for numerous loads. To prevent further use of the sling they must be taken out of service and destroyed.

## 3.0 Manufacturers Obligations

### 3.1 Legal Requirements

In order to comply with the UK or the EU legislation, the manufacturer of slings must assess their product against the Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSRs). They must then check that these requirements are being met with internal checks on manufacture and retain all manufacturing data as evidence of compliance in the technical file.

For further information, refer to LEEA-064 - *Guidance to conformity marking of lifting products for which there is no harmonized standard*.

Commonly, one trip slings deviate from the EHSRs with respect to the working coefficient which is often lower than the general rule of 7.

The MD/SOM(S)R- Annex/Part 4.1.2.5 (c) states:

*'the working coefficient for textile ropes or slings is dependent on the material, method of manufacture, dimensions and use. This coefficient must be chosen in such a way as to guarantee an adequate level of safety; it is, as a general rule, equal to 7, provided the materials used are shown to be of very good quality and the method of manufacture is appropriate to the intended use. Should this not be the case, the coefficient is, as a general rule, set at a higher level in order to secure an equivalent level of safety. Textile ropes and slings must not include any knots, connections or splicing other than at the ends of the sling, except in the case of an endless sling.'*

The coefficient of 7 is the general rule in this case. The paragraph above indicates the working coefficients to be taken into account for the dimensioning of components of textile slings 'as a general rule'. This means that these working coefficients can be deviated from if it can be justified that they are excessive for the equipment and its intended application. However, without such justification then you must adopt the general rule.

In the case of one trip slings, the justification that may be used is low utilization. This may be supported by current standards from other countries, such as ASME B30.9:2021 or DIN 60005:2018-Dispoable man-made flat woven slings - both of which use a factor of 5:1. Or additionally slings may be required to conform to the requirements of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Ports - Section 4.4.4 -P226 25-50mm - 5:1 or 51-300mm 4:1

NOTE: while these standards such as DIN60005 may be used to support the manufacturer's product specification detailing how the sling meets the EHSR's, they do not carry a presumption of conformity to the MD/SOM(S)R as they are not EU/UK harmonized or approved standards.

Further justification is the consideration of the correct use and foreseeable misuse of the sling. If the manufacturer is confident that their risk assessment and risk reduction measures are adequate, they must have measures in place to ensure that the sling is not used for general purpose lifting. Such measures are to be robust enough to prevent misuse where reasonably practicable to do so. If foreseeable misuse of the sling(s) cannot be controlled through inherent safe design and instructions, then LEEA does not recommend its use.

Based on the MD/SOM(S)R hierarchy of design, the simplest measure to eliminate foreseeable misuse, in this case, would be to apply the 'general rule'. Other than this, the only other measure available to the manufacturer would be specific instructions for use. These may be supported by the end user monitoring and controlling the journey from source to destination, but this is difficult to achieve.

The MD/SOM(S)R – Annex/Part 7A.1a states that there must be a written risk assessment in the Technical File. This must show it has met all EHSRs and should also show that the manufacturer has assessed ways of potential misuse and the mitigating action taken.

### **3.2 Markings**

The minimum requirements for marking can be found in the MD/SOM(S)R Annex/Part 1.7.1. The slings are also required to be UKCA or CE marked within the UK or the EEA. If the manufacturer wishes to, they may reference other relevant standards that are already in service and recognisable. Where the product meets this standard in full or where it meets part of the standard, the DOC must clarify what or which parts of a standard apply. In addition, the manufacturer of the one trip sling is responsible for compiling the UK or the EC DoC and instructions for use for all commercially indivisible lots. LEEA recommends that the label and/or the body of the sling be appropriately marked with '**One trip – Do not reuse**' or similar. It is a mandatory requirement to write these in the officially recognised language(s) of the end user's location if known.

### **4.0 The instructions for use**

Each instruction manual must contain at least the information in section 4.1. for further guidance refer to 'LEEA-062 - *Guidance to the manufacturer of lifting equipment to the development of instructions for use*'.

The manufacturer should include instructions for use, and markings in the official language of the country the sling will be put into service again, if known. However, to fulfil their duties and account for the foreseeable misuse of the equipment, they should also provide instructions for use and marking in the officially recognised languages for the countries where it is anticipated they will be used.

It should be noted that manufacturers may not know where the slings are to be used or their destination. In these cases, the manufacturer is to be specific with respect to the placing on the market, and that any use outside of that market would be the responsibility of the importer or supplier. They should take on some responsibility for ensuring safety information is translated and understood to those using it. If this is not possible then they should replace the sling with one that meets the national legislation.

### **4.1 Contents of the instructions for use**

With respect to the list in LEEA 062 the following points are most relevant to include in the instructions for use;

1. Business name and full address of the manufacturer
2. The UK or EC Declaration of Conformity or the contents of the UK or EC Declaration of conformity, showing the particulars of the lifting equipment, without the serial number and signatures.
3. A general description of the lifting equipment
4. Drawings, diagrams, descriptions, and explanations necessary for use, maintenance, and repair of the lifting equipment and for checking its correct functioning.
5. A description of the intended use of the lifting equipment
6. Warnings concerning ways in which the machinery must not be used that experience has shown might occur.

7. Instructions for putting into service and use of the lifting equipment and, if necessary, instructions for training operators.
8. Information regarding residual risks that may remain despite inherent safe design measures, safeguarding and complementary protective measures adopted.
9. Instructions for assembly, use and maintenance
10. The static test coefficient used

The author of the instructions is advised that this list is not exhaustive, and they must consider their instructions with respect to the residual risks associated with their product.

#### **4.2 Other points to consider**

In addition to section 4.1 the following points should also be considered;

1. The instructions, certification and the slings markings should be in the officially recognised language of the area of use.
2. The material itself, size, shape and mass of the load to be lifted if known, the intended mode of use, the working environment and the condition of the load.
3. The webbing material should not be adversely affected by the environment or the load itself . i.e. Wear sleeves or other sling/load protection should be used when and as required.
4. When the load and the accompanying one trip sling leave the undertaking of the duty holder, they must pass on the appropriate documentation and instructions for use.
5. Instructions for use should be produced as a hard copy where currently required. They may be provided electronically in support of the hard copy.

Once one trip textile slings have reached their final destination and are no longer required for the load item, they should be removed from service. Ideally they should be destroyed and safely disposed of taking account of the current environmental requirements