



RIGGING

Toolbox Safety Talk: 10 Common Rigging Safety Rules

Rigging safety is essential to prevent injuries, fatalities, and equipment damage. These 10 common rigging safety rules will help ensure a safe and efficient lifting operation:

- 1. Establish the Weight of the Load**
Always determine the weight of the load before selecting slings and hardware.
- 2. Select the Proper Hitch**
Choose the appropriate hitch type based on the load and lifting requirements.
- 3. Understand Angles and Tension**
Know how angles affect sling tension and hardware. If unsure, ask your supervisor before proceeding.
- 4. Choose the Right Sling**
Match the sling type to the load to ensure proper handling.
- 5. Use Proper Rigging Hardware**
Select hardware compatible with the sling type and load.
- 6. Inspect Slings Before Use**
Never use a defective sling. Remove defective slings from service immediately and follow your company's procedure.
- 7. Inspect Rigging Hardware**
Check all hooks, shackles, chains, and other hardware. Damaged hardware must be tagged out and reported.
- 8. Protect Slings**
Use padding or other protective measures to prevent cuts, tears, or other damage during the lift.
- 9. Find the Load's Center of Gravity**
Ensure the load is balanced before lifting.
- 10. Focus on the Lift**
Pay attention to every detail when executing the lift. Never rush or take shortcuts.

Rigging Inspection Responsibilities

All employees involved in crane and hoisting operations are responsible for inspecting slings and rigging hardware. Identifying damaged rigging is a critical step that can save lives and prevent additional equipment damage. Only trained personnel should perform rigging tasks to avoid oversights and reduce the risk of accidents.

When to Remove Slings from Service

Slings should be tagged "Out of Service" and removed immediately if any of the following conditions exist:

- **Wire Rope:** Excessive wear, kinking, crushing, bird-caging, or structural damage.
- **Synthetic Slings:** Cuts, tears, burns, or heat damage.
- **Hardware:** Cracked, deformed, corroded, or heat-damaged end attachments, shackles, or hooks.
- **Identification Tags:** Missing or unreadable Safe Working Load (SWL) tags.
- **Hooks:** Opened more than 15% of the throat opening or twisted more than 10 degrees.

Unrepairable equipment should be destroyed to prevent reuse.

Critical Safety Reminders

- **Never Walk Under a Suspended Load**
This is a life-saving rule that must always be followed.
- **Report Damaged Rigging Immediately**
Inform the person in charge as soon as you notice any defect.
- **Don't Take Chances**
Using damaged rigging or improper techniques puts everyone at risk. Your life and the lives of your coworkers depend on safe rigging practices.

By following these safety guidelines, you ensure that every lift is safe and efficient. Remember: Rigging safety is everyone's responsibility!