

RIGGING

These 10 common rigging safety rules will help you remember some of the most important safe rigging practices.

- Be sure to establish the weight of the load.
- Determine the proper type of hitch based on the type of load.
- Understand the relationships between angles and tension as they pertain to slings and hardware. If you don't understand the relationships, or if you have any questions, check with your supervisor before you proceed.
- Make sure that you select the right sling for the job based on the type of load to be lifted.
- Also, select the right hardware based on the type of load and the type of sling or slings that will be used for the lift.
- Inspect each sling before you use it. Never use a defective sling. Take defective slings out of service immediately and follow your company's procedure for handling defective equipment.
- Inspect all rigging hardware before you use it. Never use defective hardware. Take defective hardware out of service immediately and follow your company's procedure for handling defective equipment.
- As you rig the load, protect slings from cuts and tears.
- Determine the load's center of gravity.
- Pay close attention to detail at the time of the lift.

Inspection of rigging slings is the responsibility of all employees engaged in crane/hoisting operations. Identifying damaged rigging may save lives and prevent damage of more equipment. Rigging should only be done by employees trained in the use of tools and equipment used for moving of material on a job site. If untrained employees perform rigging operations, they may overlook some of the specific hazards associated with improper rigging or use rigging that may be damaged. Any employee that is aware of damaged rigging, i.e., wire rope, synthetic slings, chains, hooks, shackles, etc... should report them to the person in charge of the operation immediately.

Slings should be immediately removed from service if any of the following conditions are present. They should then be tagged as "Out of Service" and taken in for repair or destroyed completely if they cannot be repaired by a competent person:

- Wire rope, slings, or lifting devices damaged in excess of the manufacturer guidelines.
- Wear or scraping on one-third the original diameter of the wire rope on the outside individual wires.
- Kinking, crushing, bird caging, or any other damage to the wire rope structure.
- Cuts, tears, or burns in synthetic slings or ropes.
- End attachments that are cracked, deformed, chaffed, or split.
- Indications of heating of wire rope, shackles, hooks, or chain.
- Significant corrosion of the sling, wire, chain, or end attachments.
- Missing safe working load (SWL) or identification tags.
- Hooks that have been opened more than fifteen percent of the normal throat opening measured at the narrowest point or twisted more than ten degrees from the plane of the unbent hook.

Do not allow anyone to walk under a suspended load – ever!

Do not take chances with damaged rigging. The life you preserve may be yours or your co-worker's!