



RIGGING & MATERIAL HANDLING

Scope and Applicability Statement

This document provides general safety procedures and regulatory guidance for employers and workers in accordance with U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards under 29 CFR 1910 and 29 CFR 1926. These procedures apply to all workplaces where they are implemented as part of a comprehensive safety program.

Customization and Compliance Statement

Employers are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal safety regulations. Workers must adhere to established safety protocols to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this program is to ensure safe and incident-free lifting operations by employees performing rigging and material handling tasks.

Scope

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Responsibilities**Supervisors:**

- Ensure that all rigging and lifting operations comply with safety requirements.
- Verify that employees involved in rigging operations have received proper training and certification.

Employees:

- Only trained and qualified personnel are allowed to attach or detach lifting equipment to loads.
- Comply with all safety procedures related to rigging and material handling.

Procedures**General Requirements**

- Only qualified riggers are allowed to attach loads to lifting hooks.
- Only qualified crane operators may operate cranes during lifting operations.
- Only approved rigging equipment rated for lifting or suspension may be used to lift, suspend, or secure any load, including when suspending loads temporarily for positioning or stability purposes.
- Under no circumstances shall materials not specifically engineered for lifting (such as pallet strapping, tie-downs, or non-load-rated items) be used to bear or support a suspended load.
- Rigging shall be selected based on load type, weight, center of gravity, and lifting configuration.
- Rigging must be clearly labeled with the working load limit (WLL) and must not be used beyond that capacity.
- A second method of securement must be considered if the load will remain suspended for an extended duration or if personnel will be working nearby.
- Pre-use inspections of all rigging components must include checks for cuts, abrasions, fraying, bent or damaged hardware, missing or unreadable labels, and signs of chemical or heat damage.



- Defective rigging must be removed from service immediately and reported to a supervisor.

Pre-Task Planning

- All rigging and lifting tasks must be covered in the pre-job Task Hazard Analysis (THA) or Job Hazard Analysis (JHA).
- Hazard recognition during tailgate or pre-task meetings must specifically address:
 - Load security and stability
 - Suitability of rigging material
 - Clearance zones and swing radius
 - Personnel positioning
- Workers must be encouraged to question any lift where the materials or method appear uncertain or make-shift.
- A “Stop Work Authority” applies to all lifting operations — any worker may pause the job if a risk is identified.

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Training Requirements

- Employees must demonstrate competency in:
 - Selection of proper rigging hardware (eye bolts, shackles, hooks, wire rope, synthetic slings, chain slings, etc.).
 - Inspection of rigging hardware before, during, and after lifting operations.
 - Proper methods for securing, attaching, lifting, moving, lowering, and placing loads.
 - Safe storage of rigging equipment.
- Employees must complete refresher training annually.