

# Industrial Slings

## Safety Meeting Packet

### Protect Your Workforce



Slings are among the most popular devices used for handling and moving materials. Mishandling or misuse of a sling causes most sling-related accidents. Many incidents can be avoided by making sure that employees using slings are knowledgeable about the essentials of proper sling maintenance and operation.

Any worker using a sling must be trained on the selection and inspection of slings, the hazards of sling use, possible environmental effects, and rigging practices. A lack of training, skill, or caution can result in severe injuries or death.

### Inspection

Prior to use, slings and their parts must be closely inspected for wear and tear, damage, or defects. The inspection must also be completed by a qualified individual who is designated by their employer. Employees should never use a damaged or defective sling and unusable slings must be removed from service immediately. Inspection requirements vary by sling type and material, making it important for employees to know the type of sling they are using prior to beginning the inspection.



### Initial Inspection

When a new sling is placed in service, it must be examined to confirm that there is no damage or defect, that it is the proper sling type for its intended use, and to verify that it meets the necessary requirements.

### Daily Inspection

Slings that have been previously used must be checked before each day, shift and use. At a minimum, the sling must be inspected where there may be a rapid rate of wear and tear.

### Periodic Inspection

Periodically, every sling must be inspected entirely. Periodic inspections can be completed yearly except where conditions for rapid wear and tear exist. In those situations, each sling must be inspected monthly or quarterly. Special service slings shall be inspected as recommended by the manufacturer.

### Protection

Slings must be protected to reduce the risk for damage or failure.

- Cuts from sharp load edges are the main cause of synthetic sling failure. Protect the sling from all sharp objects and small diameter loads. Padding is one method to protect the sling from a sharp edge.
- Steel and synthetic slings may become damaged with use from rough load surfaces or from dragging them on the ground. Never drag slings on the ground or place them directly on concrete floors as this can result in punctures or abrasions.
- Other devices provide additional sling protection. Consider the type of anticipated wear when selecting a protection device. Some may offer abrasion resistance, but limited to no protection against cuts. Evaluate the protection device with test lifts in various settings. After each test lift, inspect the sling and protection device for damage. Check each load for foreign matter, such as metal chips or heavy grit, as these can damage slings.



## Proper Use

Improper sling use can lead to sling failure and result in injury. In addition to the general considerations below, review appropriate sling use for the type of sling being used. This information is likely provided by the manufacturer of the sling or in the operating manual for the sling.

### Prior to Lifting

- All slings must be marked or tagged with a rated load. A sling should never be overloaded. Confirm that the sling is appropriate for the load, type of hitch, and lift angle.
- Attach slings securely to the load.
- Ensure that the load is evenly balanced.
- Review the requirements for the type of hitch being used.
- Do not use the point of load hooks. The load should be centered at the base of the hook.
- Do not shorten slings with makeshift devices, knots, or bolts.
- Ensure sling legs are not kinked.
- Do not place hands or fingers between the sling and its load while the sling is being tightened.

### During Lifting

- Always consider the lift angle.
- Prepare an area to place the load down before the load is lifted.
- Keep suspended loads clear of obstructions. Employees must be clear of any load about to be lifted and of suspended loads.
- Use guide ropes or tag lines to guide a load that has been previously attached. Avoid placing hands directly on the load after it has been lifted.
- Do not pull a sling from under a load when the load is resting on the sling. Lumber can be used to create space for sling removal without shifting the load.

## Maintenance & Storage

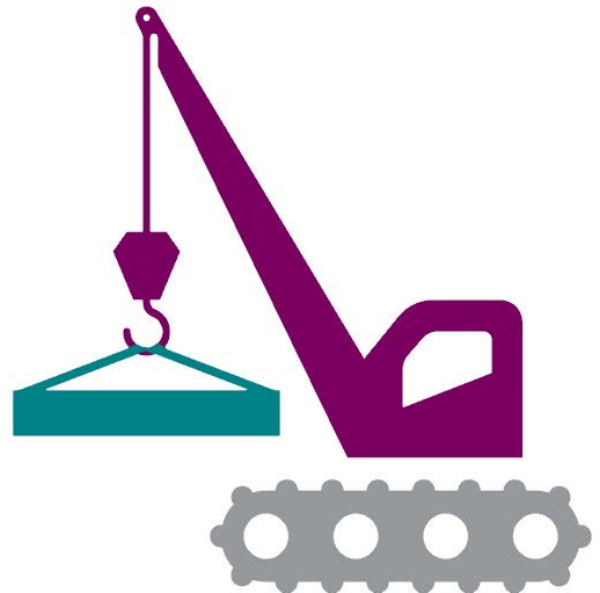
Proper maintenance and storage will slow deterioration of a sling and prevent failure.

- Keep slings clean and free of dirt, grime, and foreign materials.
- Store slings in a clean and dry area. This area should be free from welding spatter, splinters from grinding, ultraviolet (UV) light, excessive heat, chemical exposure, or other environmental damage.
- Hang unused slings on racks to avoid tangling and kinking.

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For additional information, consult the following:

- OSHA Standard: 29 CFR 1910.184 - Slings
  - OSHA Standard: 29 CFR 1915.112 - Ropes, Chains, and Slings.
  - OSHA 3072 – Sling Safety (Revised 1996)
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## Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department / Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meeting Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_  AM  PM  
 Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

### Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Internal Procedures Reviewed:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!**

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees Not Present: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions/Recommendations to Improve Workplace Safety and Health: \_\_\_\_\_

Actions Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Disclaimer:**

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.

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