

CHAIN SLINGS SAFETY / INSTRUCTION LEAFLET

Slings should only be used by trained operatives who understand the methods of rating and application of mode factors.

Good slinging practice must ensure that the load is as safe and secure in the air as it was on the ground and that no harm is done to the load, lifting equipment, other property or persons.

Do not attempt lifting operations unless you understand the use of the equipment, the slinging procedures and the mode factors to be applied.

ALWAYS:

- * Store and handle chain slings correctly.
- * Plan the lift, establish the weight of the load and prepare the landing area ensuring that it will take the weight and apply the correct mode factor for the slinging arrangement.
- * Check slings and equipment are free of damage, ensure equipment and methods are suitable for the load and protect slings from sharp edges and corners.
- * Ensure the load is balanced and will not tilt or fall. Attach the sling securely and position the hooks to face outwards.
- * Ensure that the load is free to be lifted and make a trial lift and trial lower.
- * Back hook free legs onto the master link and keep fingers; toes etc clear when tensioning slings or when landing loads.
- * Check that there are no overhead obstacles such as power lines. Where appropriate use tag lines to control the load.

Store chain slings on a rack and not lying on the ground. The storage area should be dry, clean and free of any contaminants which may harm the sling.

NEVER:

- * Use damaged slings or accessories.
- * Twist, knot, or tie slings or attempt to shorten a sling leg other than by means of an integral chain clutch
- * Force, hammer or wedge chain slings or their fittings into position.
- * Shock load chain slings or overload slings due to the weight of the load or the mode of use. Never lift on the point of a hook.
- * Drag slings over floors etc or attempt to pull a load or trapped slings from under loads.
- * Allow personnel to pass under or ride on loads.
- * Expose chain slings to chemicals, particularly acidic conditions or use chain slings at temperatures above 200°C or below minus 40°C.
- * Never return damaged or contaminated slings to storage.

- * Never galvanise or subject a chain sling to any other plating process.
- * Do not modify, repair or disassemble any chain sling.
- * Do not leave suspended loads unattended. In an emergency cordon off the area.

SELECTING THE CORRECT SLING

Chain slings are available in a range of grades, sizes and assemblies. Select the slings to be used and plan the lift taking the following into account:

- * Type of sling to be used - endless, single, two, three or four leg.
- * Capacity - the sling must be both long enough and strong enough for the load and the slinging method.
- * If adjustment of the leg length is necessary select a sling with chain shortening clutches.
- * In the case of multi-leg slings the angle between the legs should not be less than 30° or exceed the maximum marked.

IN-SERVICE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Maintenance requirements are minimal. Keep chain slings clean and protect from corrosion.

Regularly inspect chain slings and, in the event of the following defects, refer the sling to a Competent Person for thorough examination: illegible markings; distortion of fittings; worn, stretched, bent or twisted links, ineffective safety catches, cuts, nicks, gouges, cracks, corrosion, heat discolouration or any other defect apparent to the chain or fittings.

SLING CONFIGURATIONS AND RATING

Chain slings are available in single, two, three and four leg or endless form. The maximum load that the sling may lift in use will be governed by the mode of use and may vary from the marked SWL.

The following three simple rules will ensure that the sling is not overloaded.

- (1) For straight lift never exceed the marked SWL and in the case of multi-leg slings the specified angle or range of angles.
- (2) When using slings in choke hitch reduce the safe working load by 20%.
- (3) With multi-leg slings, when using less than the full number of legs, reduce the maximum load in proportion to the number of legs in use