GENERAL OSHA AND MANUFACTURER REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SLINGS

⚠ WARNING

Read Definition on page 3

Safe Operating Practices

1. **Sling users must be trained** in operating practices, including sling selection, use, inspection, rigging practices, cautions to personnel, and effects of environment.
2. **Inspect sling at least daily** and remove from service if damaged.
3. **Protect sling from being cut or damaged** by corners, protrusions, or from contact with edges that are not well rounded.
4. **Use sling properly**. Do not exceed a sling's rated capacities and always consider how the sling angle affects the amount of tension on the sling.
5. **Stand clear of load**. Do not stand on, under or near a load, and be alert to dangers from falling and moving loads, and the potential for snagging.
6. **Maintain and store sling properly**. Sling should be protected from mechanical, chemical and environmental damage.

1. Training

Sling Users must be Trained and Knowledgeable

Sling users must be knowledgeable about the safe and proper use of slings and be aware of their responsibilities as outlined in all applicable standards and regulations.

ASME B30.9 states: "*Sling users shall be trained in the selection, inspection, cautions to personnel, effects of the environment and rigging practices.*

OSHA Sling Regulation 29 CFR 1910.184 states that a *qualified person* is one: "*who, by possession of a recognized degree or certificate of professional standing in an applicable field, or who, by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter and work*."

If you are unsure whether you are properly trained and knowledgeable, or if you are unsure of what the standards and regulations require of you, ask your employer for information and/or training – **DO NOT** use web slings if you are unsure of what you are doing. Lack of skill, knowledge or care can result in severe **INJURY** or **DEATH** to you and others.

2. Inspections

Inspections. Each day before being used, the sling and all fastenings and attachments shall be inspected for damage or defects by a competent person designated by the employer. Additional inspections shall be performed during sling use, where service conditions warrant. Damaged or defective slings shall be immediately removed from service.
(OSHA Wording)

Inspection Frequency

Initial Inspection - Each new sling must be inspected by a designated person to help ensure that the correct sling has been received, is undamaged, and meets applicable requirements for its intended use.

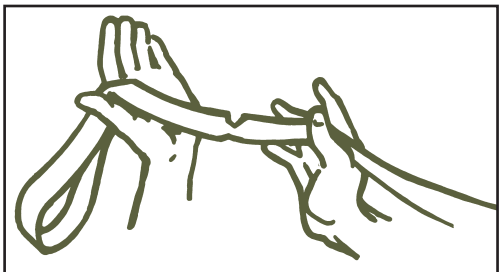
Frequent Inspection - The sling must be inspected by a designated person before each day or shift in **Norma**l service conditions, or before each use in applications where a rapid rate of sling wear or other degradation may exist. (**Severe** service conditions).

Periodic Inspection - Every sling must be inspected "periodically". The designated person should be someone other than the person performing the frequent inspection.

The frequency of periodic inspections should be based on the sling's actual or expected use, severity of sevice, and experience gained during the inspection of other slings used in similar circumstances, but must not exceed a one year interval. General guidelines for the frequency of periodic inspections are:

- Normal service–yearly
- Severe service–monthly to quarterly
- Special service–as recommended

A written record of the most recent periodic inspection must be maintained. (See WSTDA WS-1 for definitions of service conditions.)



For specific inspection criteria, see the informaton at the end of each product section.

The Safety Bulletin that accompanies each sling must be read and understood by all sling users. See sling abuse illustrations in their respective section of this catalog. Damaged slings should never be used, but in some instances, it is possible to repair slings, proof test and return them to service. Damaged components and sections of chain or wire mesh can be replaced. Hooks, links and other components that are in good condition can be salvaged from a damaged web or round sling, rewebbed, proof tested by *Lift-All* and returned to service.

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3. Protect Slings

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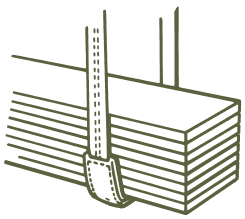
Slings shall be padded or protected from the sharp edges of their loads.
(OSHA Wording)



The cutting of synthetic slings and nicking or gouging of steel slings are the main causes of sling failure; usually caused by a sharp or small diameter load edge against the sling. Proper padding can help to avoid cutting. (See Wear Pad Section page 14).

Punctures & Abrasions seriously degrade sling strength. Rough load surfaces and dragging slings on the ground will damage all slings, steel or synthetic. Use proper padding between slings and rough loads. Never drag slings on ground or concrete floors.

Sling Protection

A qualified person must select materials and methods that adequately protect slings from edges or surfaces. Sleeves, wear pads, corner protectors, or other softeners are examples of materials commonly used as protection devices. However, **No protective device is "cut proof".**

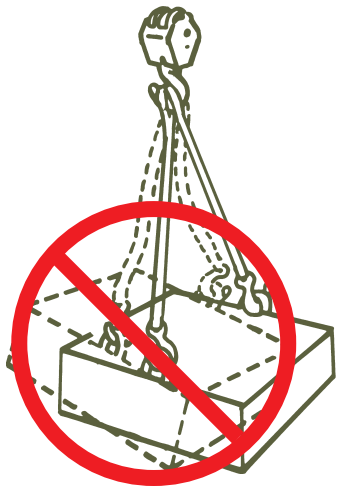
Some protection devices provide abrasion resistance, but offer virtually no protection against cuts. Several "test" lifts, done in a non-consequence setting, may be necessary to determine the suitability of each protection device. After each "test" lift, inspect **all** slings and protection devices for damage.

Foreign Matter - Material such as metal chips and heavy grit can damage slings, both internally and externally. Avoid contact with foreign matter whenever possible.

4. Use Slings Properly

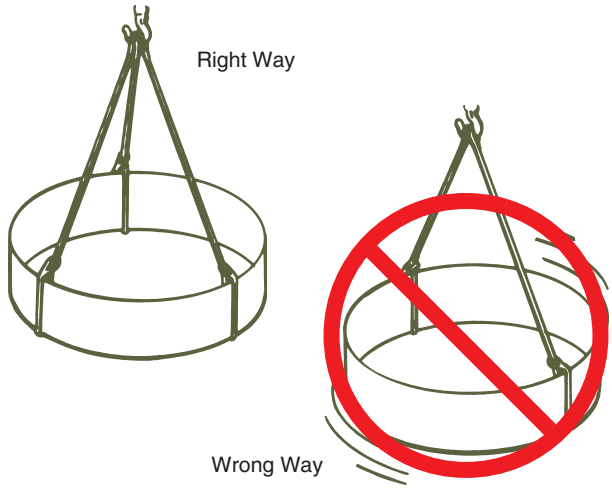
- Slings shall not be dragged on floor.

Improper Loading - Shock Loading, unbalanced loading, overloading and inadequate consideration for the effect of angle factors can adversely affect safety. Make sure the load weight is within the rated capacity of the sling(s) being used for both type of hitch and angle of lift.
(OSHA Wording)



- Do not shock load. Jerking the load could overload the sling and cause it to fail.

- Lift must be stable with respect to the center of gravity - balanced.



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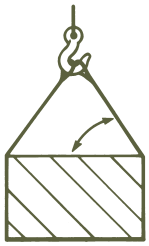
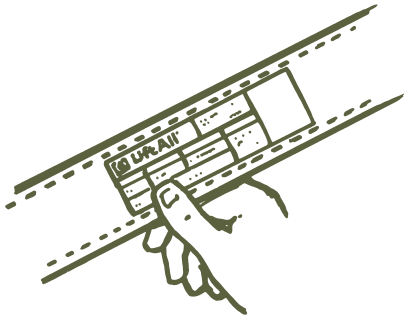
Slings used in a basket hitch shall have the loads balanced to prevent slippage.
(OSHA Wording)



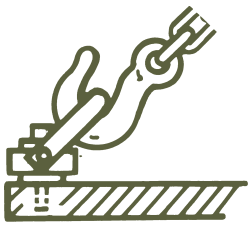
- Angle of lift must be considered in all lifts. See page 12.

Slings shall not be loaded in excess of their rated capacities.
(OSHA Wording)



- Rated capacities (Working Load Limits) must be shown by markings or tags attached to all slings.

Right Way



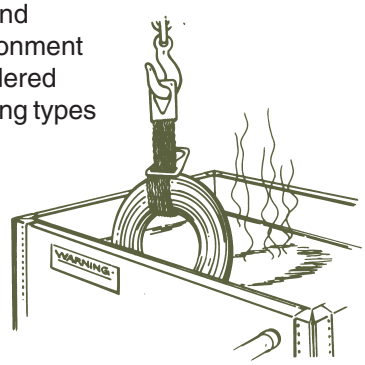
Wrong Way

- Do not point load hooks - center load in base of hook.

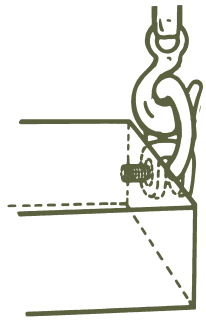
Temperature - Avoid loads and environments where temperatures exceed the limits of the slings being used. All slings can be damaged by excessive heat, including heat from welding torches and weld spatter.

Chemical Environment - Slings exposed to certain chemicals or the vapors of these chemicals can lose some or all of their strength. When using slings in a chemical environment, contact *Lift-All* to assure sling compatability.

- Temperature and chemical environment must be considered (see specific sling types for data).



Slings shall be securely attached to their loads.
(OSHA Wording)



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Slings shall not be shortened with knots or bolts or other makeshift devices.
(OSHA Wording)

Sling legs shall not be kinked.
(OSHA Wording)

A sling shall not be pulled from under a load when the load is resting on the sling.
(OSHA Wording)

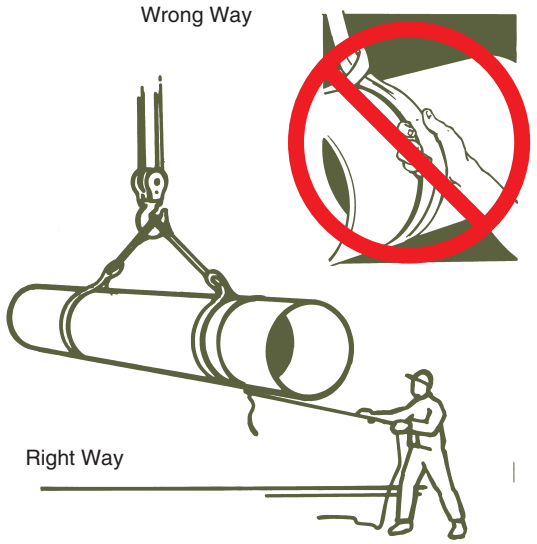
Right Way

- Before a load is lifted, a place should be prepared where it is to be put down. Lumber can be used to allow space to remove the sling and prevent shifting of the load.

5. Stand Clear of the Load

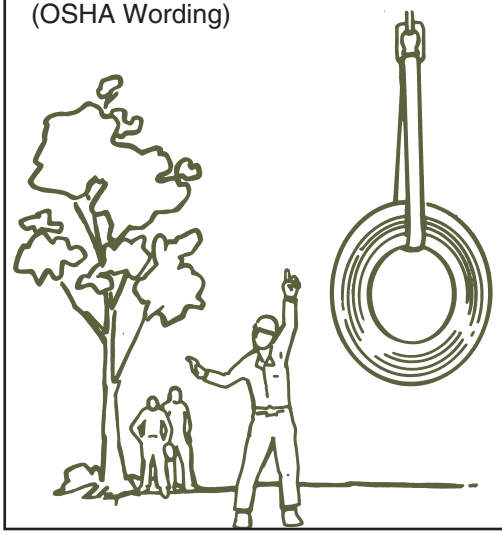
Hands or fingers shall not be placed between the sling and its load while the sling is being tightened around the load.
(OSHA Wording)

Wrong Way



- After lifting, the load should not be pushed or guided by employees hands directly on the load. Ropes or "tag lines" should be attached for this purpose.

Suspended loads shall be kept clear of all obstructions.
All employees shall be kept clear of loads about to be lifted and of suspended loads.
(OSHA Wording)



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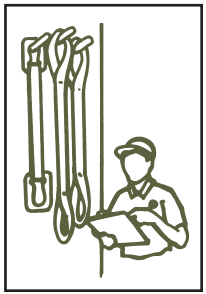
6. Maintain and Store Sling Properly

Attempt to keep slings clean and free of dirt, grime and foreign materials.

When not in use, slings should be stored in an area free from environmental or mechanical sources of damage, such as: weld spatter, splinters from grinding or machining, or sources of UV, heat, or chemical exposure, etc.



- Slings shall be stored in cool, dark, dry areas, preferably on racks.

Additional Factors to consider when handling loads

- Integrity of the attachment points
- Structural stability of the load
- Loose parts that could fall from load
- Power lines in the area
- Secure a clear load path and avoid any contact with objects that would impede load movement
- Tag lines can often be attached to the load and be used to aid in controlling load position