

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

CHAIN SLINGS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

Inspection:

1. Perform a pre lift check for visible faults in links or hooks.
2. Things to look for:
 - Clean sling prior to inspection.
 - Hang the chain up or stretch the out on a level floor. Remove all twists. Measure the sling length. Discard if sling has been stretched.
 - make a link-by-link inspection and discard if:
 - wear exceeds 15% of link diameter;
 - links are cut, nicked, cracked, gouged, burned or corrosion pitted;
 - links are twisted or bent;
 - links are stretched – links tend to close up and get longer.
 - check master link, load pins and hooks for any of the above faults. Hooks should be removed from service if they have been opened more than 15% of the normal throat opening, measured at the narrowest point, or twisted more than 10° from the plane of the unbent hook.

Manufacturers' reference charts show sling and hitch capacities. **Record manufacturer, type, load limit and inspection dates.**

Lifting Practices:

1. Find out load weight before lifting.
2. Balance the load to avoid overstress on one sling arm or the load slipping free.
3. Pad sharp corners to prevent bending links.
4. Replace broken safety latches.
5. Keep hands and fingers from between load and chain.
6. Store chain sling arms on racks in assigned areas.

DON'T:

- Jerk the load when lifting or lowering the sling. This increases the actual stress on the sling.
- Drag chains.
- Splice a chain by inserting a bolt between two links.
- Shorten a chain with knots.
- Force a hook over a link.
- Use homemade connections. Use only attachments designed for the chain.
- Only Grade 8 chain can be used for lifting