

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

SLINGS & CHAINS

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

Recommended Operating Practices

DO:

- When using a sling/chain in a basket hitch, make sure the load is balanced to prevent slippage.
- Make sure the sling/chain is securely attached to the load.
- Protect or pad the sling/chain from any sharp edges of the load.
- Keep suspended loads clear of all obstructions.
- Make sure people are kept clear of loads about to be lifted and suspended loads.
- Keep hands and fingers clear of the sling/chain and its load while the sling/chain is being tightened around the load.

DON'T:

- Use a sling/chain that is damaged or defective.
- Shorten a sling/chain with knots, bolts or other makeshift devices.
- Kink sling legs.
- Load a sling/chain in excess of its working load limits.
- Walk under a suspended load.
- Shock load.
- Pull a sling/chain from under a load when the load is resting on it.

Inspection:

- Slings/chains and attachments should be inspected for damage or defects prior to being used, by a competent person designated by the employer. Additional inspections should be performed during sling use where service conditions warrant.
- Damaged or defective slings/chains should be removed from service immediately.

Caution: The terms "working load limit", "proof test" and "minimum breaking load" do not indicate what load the sling/chain assembly will withstand. Any change in the noted factors or any abuse can reduce the load capacity. Example of such changes and abuses include:

- Exposure to excessive heat.
- Twisting or knotting of sling/chain assembly.
- Disfigurement
- Deterioration by overloading or shock loading.
- Deterioration due to wear, weathering or corrosion.
- Variation in the angle of the assembly leg and/or unequal loading due to the shape of the load being moved.
- Uses of the assembly for a purpose other than that for which it is intended.

All cautions apply to the use of sling/chain assemblies and attachments.