

# SAFE WORK PRACTICES

## WIRE ROPE SLINGS

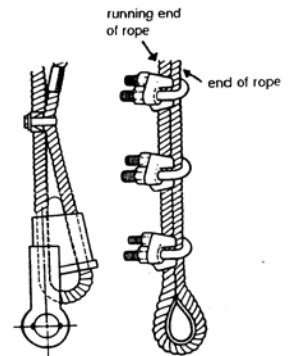
*\*This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Use manufacturer's charts and tables on sling types, angles and rope diameters. Standard wire rope slings are designed for temperatures up to 200C (400F). Wire rope corrodes when exposed to acids.

1. Use wire rope slings at rated limits.
2. Inspect and tighten fittings regularly.
3. Check the manufacturer's chart for sling properties.
4. Minimize rope stress with slow starts and stops.
5. Keep wire rope slings well lubricated and inspect often.
6. Examine slings for wear, fatigue and kinking.
7. Replace damaged slings.
8. Store slings on racks in a clean dry place.
9. Center sling load to prevent the load suddenly shifting and causing a high impact load.
10. Avoid moisture, acid fumes, caustics and handling hot material.

**Attachment Methods:** Socket and clip fittings, used to attach the rope, determine the sling's load limit. Fittings have 75%, up to 100%, of the breaking load of the rope. Manufacturers specify clips and clamps of suitable size and design for ropes of different sizes. Attach using method outlined by manufacturer.

**Hitches:** The safe load limit of a sling also depends on the hitch (method of applying a sling to the load). The type of hitch depends on the kind of material to be lifted, safe load limit of the sling, whether lugs are available on the load, headroom and other factors. (Also see safe work practices: Vertical, Choker & Turning Sling Hitches; and Basket & Bridle Sling Hitches).



### DON'T:

- Bend the sling around sharp edges – protect by means of corner saddles, padding/softeners or wood blocks.
- Use sling with knots.
- Slide load along a rope.
- Use a single leg hitch on a load that cannot be controlled – rotation of a load can undo the wire rope strands, weakening the rope.