

DALE

Instructions for the Safe Use of Fibre Rope Slings

The information in this document should be passed to the user of the equipment

This document is issued in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, amended March 1988. It outlines the care and safe use of FIBRE ROPE SLINGS and is based on Section 21 of the LEEA Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment.

This information is of a general nature only covering the main points for the safe use of fibre rope slings. It may be necessary to supplement this information for specific applications.

ALWAYS

- Store and handle rope slings correctly.
- Inspect fibre rope slings and accessories before use and before placing into storage.
- Follow safe slinging practices, as given overleaf.
- Position splices of endless slings in the standing part of rope and the bight for choke lift at 120° (natural angle).
- Protect the sling from sharp edges.
- Apply correct mode factor for the slinging arrangement.

NEVER

- Attempt to shorten, knot or tie rope slings.
- Expose rope slings to direct heat or flames.
- Lift on the point of the hook.
- Expose rope slings to chemicals without consulting the supplier.
- Use rope slings at temperatures above 80°C or below 0°C without consulting the supplier.
- Shock load rope slings.

SELECTING THE CORRECT SLING

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

Type of sling - endless, single, two, three or four leg.

Material - polyester is resistant to moderate strength acids but is damaged by alkalis; polyamide (Nylon) is virtually immune to alkalis but is damaged by acids; polypropylene is little affected by acids or alkalis but is damaged by some solvents, tars and paints; and natural fibres offer little or no resistance to chemicals.

Capacity - the sling must be both long enough and strong enough for the load and the slinging method.

Apply the mode factor for the slinging method.

For use at temperatures exceeding 80°C or below 0°C refer to the suppliers instructions.

In the case of multi-leg slings the angle between the legs should not be less than 30° or exceed the maximum marked.

If abrasion, heat generated by friction or cutting from corners or edges are likely select a sling with protective sleeves and/or use suitable packing and protection.

STORING AND HANDLING ROPE SLINGS

- Never return wet, damaged or contaminated slings to storage. They should be cleaned with clear water and dried naturally. Never force dry fibre rope slings.
- Store rope slings hung from non-rusting pegs which allow the free circulation of air.
- The storage area should be dry, clean, free of any contaminants and shaded from direct sunlight.
- Do not alter, modify or repair a rope sling but refer such matters to a Competent Person.

NOTE: The material from which the sling is manufactured can be identified by coloured yarns within the strands. These are specified in BS 6033.

USING ROPE SLINGS SAFELY

- Do not attempt lifting operations unless you understand the use of the equipment, the slinging procedures and the mode factors to be applied.
- Do not use defective slings or accessories.
- Position hooks of multi-leg slings facing outward from the load. Do not lift on the point of a hook.
- Position splices of endless slings in the standing part of the rope away from load, hook or point of choke.
- The diameter of components placed in a soft eye must be at least the diameter of the rope but not so large that the two parts of rope at the splice form an included angle greater than 30°.
- Ensure that the rope is not twisted or knotted.
- Take the load steadily and avoid shock loads.
- Do not leave suspended loads unattended. In an emergency cordon off the area.

IN-SERVICE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Maintenance requirements are minimal. Rope slings may be cleaned with clear water and allowed to dry naturally. Remember weak chemical solutions will become increasingly stronger by evaporation. Regularly inspect rope slings and, in the event of the following defects, refer the sling to a Competent Person for thorough examination: illegible markings; wear; abrasion and chaffing; cuts and fraying; heat damage and burns; chemical attack; solar degradation; damaged fittings and thimbles.

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Further information is given in:

BS 6033 Colour Code Identification of Constituent Material of Ropes and Cordage

The Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment, published by: LIFTING EQUIPMENT ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

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