

DALE

Instructions for the Safe Use of Flat Woven Webbing 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 man-made fibre FLAT WOVEN WEBBING SLINGS, commonly known as BELT SLINGS, and is based on Section 15 of the LEEA Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment. It should be read in conjunction with the requirements for general purpose slinging practice, given overleaf, which form an integral part of these instructions.

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

ALWAYS

- Store and handle belt slings correctly.
- Inspect belt slings and accessories before use and before placing into storage.
- Follow safe slinging practices, as given overleaf.
- Position the bight for choke lift at 120° (natural angle).
- Position the sling so that the load is uniformly spread over its width and protect the sling from sharp edges.
- Apply the correct mode factor for the slinging arrangement.

NEVER

- Attempt to shorten, knot or tie belt slings.
- Expose belt slings to direct heat or flames.
- Use belt slings at temperatures above 80°C or below 0°C without consulting the supplier.
- Expose belt slings to chemicals without consulting the supplier.
- Shock load belt slings.
- Use belt slings which are cut or which have loose or damaged stitching.

SELECTING THE CORRECT SLING

Belt slings are available in a range of materials and sizes in single leg and endless sling forms. Select the slings to be used and plan the lift taking the following into account:

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; and polypropylene is little affected by acids or alkalis but is damaged by some solvents, tars and paints.

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.

If the slings are used in multi-leg arrangement the angle formed between the legs should not be less than 30° or greater than 90°.

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

STORING AND HANDLING BELT SLINGS

- Never return wet, damaged or contaminated slings to storage. They should be cleaned with clear water and dried naturally. Never force dry belt slings.
- Store belt 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 belt sling but refer such matters to a Competent Person.
- NOTE: The material from which the sling is manufactured may be identified by the colour of the label or printing on the label: Polyester = Blue, Polyamide (Nylon) = Green, Polypropylene = Brown and the sling may also be dyed with a colour code to indicate SWL.

USING BELT 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.
- Check the correct engagement with fittings and appliances, ensure smooth radii are formed, do not twist or cross slings and do not overcrowd fittings.
- Position the sling so that the load is uniformly spread over its width.
- Position the bight for a choke lift at the natural (120°) angle to prevent friction being generated.
- Ensure that stitching is in the standing part of the sling away from hooks and other fittings.
- 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. Belt slings may be cleaned with clear water. Remember weak chemical solutions will become increasingly stronger by evaporation.

Regularly inspect belt slings and, in the event of the following defects, refer the sling to a Competent Person for thorough examination: illegible markings; damaged, chaffed or cut webbing; damaged or loose stitching; heat damage; burns; chemical damage; solar degradation; damaged or deformed end fittings.

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Further information is given in:

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

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