

Slings and Connectors

Choose the slings and connectors based on materials to be moved and conditions of the workplace.

Inspect slings and connectors carefully before use.

- Look for excessive wear or damage that could impact the ability to lift a load safely.
- Remove damaged equipment from service.

After rigging inspection:

- Check sling load capacity.
- Compare it to the weight of the load.
- If the load weight is greater than the stated capacity, don't use the sling.
- Ensure connectors, shackles and hooks meet proper load capacity.

Safe Rigging Practices

- Ensure cranes and derricks are on a firm, level surface with outriggers extended.
- Guide the operator so the boom is centered directly over the load.
- Position the hook close to the load center; always use tag lines to control the load; ensure the load is lifted straight up whenever possible.
- Watch weather conditions; avoid lifting if it's too windy.
- Never stand or work under a suspended load. Don't move loads over areas where work is being done.
- Receiving a load
 - Ensure area is firm, flat and free of objects.
 - One person should communicate with the crane operator using proper hand signals or electronic communication.

- Give the stop signal if there's concern about the load. Do not proceed until you are confident the issue is resolved.
- Avoid anchor failure with proper concrete composition, proper anchor hole size and proper shell seating.
- Prevent fall injuries by using guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems if working 6 feet or more above a lower level in construction, or 4 feet or more above a lower level in mechanical service or prefabrication shops.
- Never ride the load.