

RIGGER SAFETY

GUIDE



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General Information Riggers Need to Know

Improper rigging of a load or a rigging failure can expose riggers and other workers nearby to a variety of potential hazards. Therefore all loads must be safely rigged prior to a lift.

The following are topics that should be discussed with workers prior to beginning rigging operations:

- Hazards associated with rigging operations.
- Role and responsibility of each rigger's assigned task.
- Establishing a goal for the day.
- Weight of material and equipment being hoisted.
- Identifying the various shapes on the surface of equipment being hoisted.
- Lifting limitations of gear and hoisting devices.
- Communication used by all personnel.
- Disconnecting techniques used to complete the task.

Sharing the safe work practices and information in this guide sheet will help keep workers safe. Preventing damage to lifting gear, lifting equipment, vessel components and other loads is also critical.

Riggers must be:

- Trained to understand and recognize the hazards associated with the assigned task.
- Qualified to do assigned work and comply with proper procedures.
- Familiar with the various and correct rigging techniques and

rigging equipment (e.g., slings, shackles, hooks, hoist, blocks).

- Able to anticipate problems before they occur.
- Stop the job when any potentially unsafe conditions are present.
- Aware of the weight of the load and understand the rated capacities of the equipment.

Equipment:

- All rigging gear and equipment provided by the employer must be inspected before each shift and at intervals during its use to minimize the possibility of a rigging failure.
- Defective gear and equipment must be immediately removed from service.
- Check nylon slings for cuts or frayed areas.
- Check wire rope slings for kinks or broken wires or strands.
- Check hooks to make sure they are not bent from overloading.
- Bent or sprung hooks must not be used.

Slings or Ropes:

- Slings must not be used over sharp corners without padding.
- Slings must not be covered with permanent padding that would prevent them from being inspected before each use.
- Use softeners, padding, chaffing gear or other sling protection as necessary to prevent damage to nylon slings.
- Kinked or knotted wire rope slings should be removed from service. Wire rope shall not be secured by knots.

Lifting:

- Avoid lifts near stacked material that may be knocked over by a swinging load.
- Always check for overhead power lines before lifting a load.
- Before loads or empty lifting gear are raised, lowered, or swung, advance warning must be given to workers operating in the vicinity.
- Use a designated spotter to assure that proper clearances are maintained.
- When walking with a load, keep it as close to the ground as possible.
- Inspect the spot where the load is to be landed.
- When lowering or setting a load, set it down slowly.
- Tag lines must be provided on loads likely to swing or need guidance.
- Do not use tag lines to control lift when the lift is under or near electrical power lines.
- Riggers must not place themselves in a hazardous position between a swinging load and a fixed object.
- Workers are not to work under the load.
- Workers must not ride a load or hook.
- Riggers should keep fingers, hands and feet away from pinch points.