

## Slings

### **Description:**

29 CFR § 1910.184 applies to slings used in the movement of material by hoisting. Operations such as lifting and placement of tanks, pumps, electric motors, piping sections, and other heavy objects using slings fall under the OSHA standard.

### **Regulatory Reference**

29 CFR § 1910.184 Slings

### **Applies to:**

The types of slings covered are those made from alloy steel chain, wire rope, metal mesh, natural or synthetic fiber rope and synthetic web. Although large tanks and other heavy loads may be handled by contractors such as crane services, service technicians and others in the propane industry frequently make use of slings when setting consumer tanks, or performing maintenance tasks in bulk plants.

### **General Requirements:**

- (1) Section (b) of the 29 CFR § 1910.184 gives definitions of sling types and attachments.
- (2) Section (c) of the standard give mandatory safe operating practices. Whenever any sling is used, the following practices shall be observed:
  - (a) Slings that are damaged or defective shall not be used.
  - (b) Slings shall not be shortened with knots or bolts or other makeshift devices.
  - (c) Sling legs shall not be kinked.
  - (d) Slings shall not be loaded in excess of their rated capacities.
  - (e) Slings used in a basket hitch shall have the loads balanced to prevent slippage.
  - (f) Slings shall be securely attached to their loads.
  - (g) Slings shall be padded or protected from the sharp edges of their loads.
  - (h) Suspended loads shall be kept clear of all obstructions.
  - (i) All employees shall be kept clear of loads about to be lifted and of suspended loads.
  - (j) Hands or fingers shall not be placed between the sling and its load while the sling is being tightened around the load.
  - (k) Shock loading is prohibited.
  - (l) A sling shall not be pulled from under a load when the load is resting on the sling.
- (3) Affected employers must designate a competent person to inspect the sling and all fastenings and attachments for damage or defects each day before the sling is used. Additional inspections shall be performed during sling use, where service conditions warrant. Damaged or defective slings shall be immediately removed from service. Other inspection requirements are located in section (d) of the standard.
- (4) Sections (e) through (i) of the standard provide application limitations for different types of slings.

### **Training Requirements:**

There are no specific training requirements for OSHA standard on slings. However, the mandatory requirement for affected employers to designate a competent person to inspect slings implies that some training effort be provided to assure the competency of the person(s) designated.

### **Maintenance and Review**

Procedures for inspection of slings before use should be considered and set out in company standard operating procedures (SOP). Persons should be designated and trained to perform periodic sling inspections. The training of designated competent persons (sling inspectors), whether they are managers, supervisors, service technicians or delivery drivers should include the material in 29 CFR § 1910.184, including the tables that set out limitations of the type of sling used.

### **Additional Information and Resources**

Industrial equipment suppliers and sling manufacturers are good sources for additional information and product specifications.