

Sling and Hoist Safety in Manufacturing - Fact Sheet

What are Slings and Hoists?

- Slings are flexible lifting devices used to attach loads to hoists or cranes.
- Hoists are mechanical devices used to lift or lower heavy loads with chains, ropes, or cables.
- Together, they are commonly used in manufacturing for material handling and equipment movement.

Common Hazards:

- Sling failure due to wear, overloading, or improper inspection
- Hoist malfunction from poor maintenance
- Dropped loads causing crush injuries or fatalities
- Swinging or uncontrolled loads striking workers
- Electrical hazards with powered hoists

Safety Requirements:

- Inspect slings and hoists before each use for wear, damage, or defects
- Verify load weight does not exceed sling or hoist rated capacity
- Ensure proper sling angle to avoid stress overload
- Never ride on, stand under, or walk beneath a suspended load
- Keep clear of pinch points and moving parts
- Only trained and authorized personnel should operate hoists

Inspection Guidelines:

- Daily visual inspection by the operator
- Periodic detailed inspections by qualified personnel per manufacturer and OSHA requirements
- Remove equipment from service if:
 - Broken wires or stretched chains are observed
 - Hooks are bent or cracked
 - Sling fabric or stitching is frayed or cut
 - Hoist brakes or controls are not functioning properly

Applicable OSHA Standards:

- OSHA 1910.179 – Overhead and Gantry Cranes
- OSHA 1910.184 – Slings
- OSHA 1910.180 – Crawler, locomotive, and truck cranes

Best Practices:

- Use proper rigging techniques and secure loads before lifting
- Maintain clear communication between signal persons and operators
- Store slings in a clean, dry location to prevent damage
- Follow manufacturer's load charts and operational guidelines

Remember:

Safe sling and hoist operations prevent serious injuries. Always inspect equipment, follow load limits, and stay clear of suspended loads.

