

Toolbox talk - Alloy Steel Chain Sling Safety

Alloy steel chain slings are strong and somewhat resistant to heat. However, they are susceptible to damage from sudden jerks, stretching, rust, nicks, gouges, etc. Be sure to inspect each sling link by link before using it.

- First look for the permanently attached identification tag that states the size, grade, rated capacity and the name of the manufacturer. If the tag is missing, the sling is defective.
- Only Alloy Grades 80 or 100 may be used for overhead lifting. If the slings do not meet these criteria, take them out of service immediately.
- Carefully inspect the sling link by link looking for bends, cracks, gouges, and any other signs of excessive wear.
- Look to see if any of the individual links have stretched, paying special attention to where the links pull and rub against other links. If any of the links are binding against other links or against the eye of the hook they have been stretched and weakened rendering the sling defective.
- If the sling has multiple legs, you can look for stretching by hanging it up and determining whether any one leg is longer/shorter than any other leg.
- If any part of the sling is defective, take it out of service immediately and follow your company's procedure for handling defective equipment.
- If you're not sure whether a sling is defective, take it out of service and check with your supervisor before using it.