

Toolbox talk - Choosing Safe Rigging Hardware

Hooks, shackles, eyebolts and U-bolt wire rope clips are some of the most frequently used rigging hardware in the mechanical construction industry. Selecting the right hardware is critical to safe lift operations. Several things to consider while choosing rigging hardware for a specific application follow.

- Do the design and composition of the hardware make it strong enough to perform the work safely? Rigging hardware is rated based on straight linear tension. The rated capacities decrease any time the angle of pull is no longer vertical. The more the angle increases out from vertical, the more the rated capacity decreases.
- Will the hardware keep the load secure?
- Is the hardware compatible with the sling?
- Is the hardware in good condition?
- Capacity tables should only be used for pre-project planning purposes. The same sizes and types of hardware may have different rated capacities depending on the manufacturer. For example, the rated capacity of a 7/8 inch eyebolt may have a rated capacity that is hundreds of pounds different from the exact same size and type of eyebolt made by a different manufacturer.
- Always use the rated capacities provided by the manufacturer specifically for each individual piece of hardware.