

Guidelines for Using Slings to Lift

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A sling is a type of device manufactured specifically to lift and move heavy loads, such as construction materials or machinery.

Do not use slings as tow straps!

Do not rig off of the forks!

Here are some general guidelines for using slings:

- **Always determine the weight and size of the load to be lifted.**
 - This will allow you to choose a sling with adequate strength and length.
- **Select the appropriate sling for the load and hoisting mechanism.**
 - Make sure it is rated for the weight of the load and configuration used and is made of suitable materials.
- **Inspect the sling for any damage or wear.**
 - Look for frayed edges, cuts, burns, and broken stitching. Also make sure tags are attached and legible. **NEVER** use a damaged sling.
- **Position the sling around the load.**
 - Make sure the sling is evenly distributed around the load and it is not twisted or tangled. Protect the sling from sharp edges.
- **Attach the loops of the sling to the hoisting mechanism.**
 - Make sure the hooks are securely fastened and that the sling is positioned so the load is properly balanced.
- **Test the load before lifting.**
 - Gently tug on the sling to make sure it and the load are secure.
- **Slowly lift the load using the hoisting mechanism.**
 - Make sure to keep the load level and stable.
- **Move the load to the desired location.**
 - Use a tag line to maintain control and avoid pinch points.
- **Lower the load.**
 - Slowly lower the load into position keeping it level and stable. Do not let the load crush the sling.
- **Disconnect the sling from the hoisting mechanism and remove it from the load.**
 - Carefully disconnect and remove sling from the load. Do not use the hoist to pull the sling from under the load. Return it to its designated storage area when done.