

Rigging refresher

Rigging – using equipment such as chains, wire ropes, and shackle attachments - is critical in safe crane operations. Many things can go wrong with rigging that can affect lifting. If a sling breaks or a load slips during a lift, the results can include property damage, injuries and tragic fatalities.

Communication

Communication is an essential part of a rigger's work. Riggers need to know WorkSafeBC's standard hand signals for controlling crane operations.

Crane operators and riggers must confirm with each other that they are competent to perform rigging and signalling. Check with the operator to confirm the crane's lift capacity.

Use the right sling

Use the right sling for the load. Choose a sling based on the load's size, its shape, and even its materials.

Use the right hitch

When deciding which hitch type (vertical, basket or choker) to use, remember that the same factors affect hitches as slings (e.g., load size, shape, and materials).

Carry out inspections

- Check that lifting equipment and loads have sufficient structural integrity for lifting and handling.
- The worker who uses a sling must visually inspect the sling every time it is used. Look for the following types of damage:
 - Broken wires; abrasion or scraping; birdcaging; and

cracked or deformed wire ropes.

- Excessive wear on fabric (e.g., internal red yarn visible); discoloration; melting or charring; holes, tears, or snags; knots; and broken stitching on synthetic fabrics.
- Excessive wear on chains; cracks; elongation; bends or twists; and heat damage.
- Ensure the hook's safety latch is not broken or bent. Never use a stretched or twisted hook.

Secure the load

- Follow safety instructions from manufacturers or engineers.
- Ensure the weight of the load never exceeds the rated capacity of any equipment involved in the lift.
- Pay close attention to the sling angles for each sling you have rigged. Avoid sling angles smaller than 45 degrees because they put too much stress on the sling.
- Ensure load lift level.
- Ensure that the lifting force is evenly and fully applied across the load's centre of gravity.
- Use the centre of the hook to carry a load. Never lift a load on the tip of the hook. Don't crowd slings.

OHS Regulation reference: Part 15, Rigging

Project:

Address:

Employer:

Supervisor:

Date:

Time:

Shift:

Number in crew:

Number attending:

Other safety concerns or suggestions:

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Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)		Signature:	Company:
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Manager's remarks:

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Manager:

Supervisor:

(Signature)

(Signature)

For more information on health and safety requirements for crane operations in BC, refer to the *Workers Compensation Act* and the OHS Regulation at [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com).