



## **INSPECT YOUR EQUIPMENT, WIRE ROPE, WIRE ROPE SLINGS AND ASSEMBLIES REGULARLY**

> Inspection should be performed by a qualified person with special training or practical experience.



## **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

> When it comes to using wire rope slings and assemblies, knowledge is your most important tool. We know this guide can't answer every question you have about wire rope slings and assemblies.

If you have more informational needs, contact your **Union** distributor or district sales manager.

### **1. WEIGH AND MEASURE**

Before you lift, be sure you know exactly how much weight you're moving, how far you have to move it and how high you must lift it. Make sure the load's weight is within the rated capacity of the sling, including consideration of sling leg angles and load's physical parameters.

### **2. USE THE RIGHT HITCH**

Decide how to connect your load to the lifting hook and how to attach the sling to the load.

### **3. CHOOSE THE RIGHT SLING**

Each load is different. Be sure to calculate the proper rated capacity for the angles and hitch involved as well as the right type and style for the job.

If D/d ratios are smaller than those indicated, the sling's rated capacity must be reduced. Choose a sling with the proper end attachments or eye protection as well as attaching hardware. Pad all corners in contact with the sling to minimize damage to the sling.

### **4. INSPECT THE SLING**

Check the sling closely to be sure it is in good condition and able to make the lift. Follow all the appropriate OSHA guidelines and ASME regulations. You cannot change the length of a sling. If a different length is needed, get a sling of the required length.

### **5. RIG UP, NOT DOWN**

Always attach the sling to the load first, then attach it to the hook.

### **6. BALANCE THE LOAD**

Always place the eye or link in the base (bowl) of the hook to prevent point loading on the hook. In a basket hitch, always balance the load to prevent slippage.

The sling's legs should contain or support the load from the sides above the center of gravity when using a basket hitch. Be certain that the slings are long enough so that the rated capacity is adequate when you consider the angle of the legs.

### **7. TEST THE RIGGING**

Before you make the lift, tug lightly on the rigging to be certain that blocking, sling and load protection are in place, then lift slightly off the ground and re-check the lift.

### **8. STAND CLEAR AND LIFT**

To prevent injury, move away from the areas between the sling and load and between the sling and the crane hook or hoist hook. Let the lifting device and rigging work for you.

Avoid the temptation to use your muscles to prevent swinging or movement. Use a tagline or tether. Be sure to keep clear of the suspended load.

### **9. AVOID SHOCK LOADING**

Lift slowly with a steady application or power. Don't make sudden starts or stops, either in lifting or swinging the load.

### **10. RETURN TO STORAGE**

After you're done with your lift, inspect the sling for possible damage. If damaged and not usable, destroy the sling immediately. Otherwise, return it to your sling storage rack until your next lift.

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