



Synthetic Slings

Not all slings are created equal! What you don't know is that they can kill you. The following is intended to clear up myths regarding sling inspection and usage.

Sling Inspection

- An initial inspection shall be performed before using any new or repaired sling. The inspection shall ensure that the correct sling is being used, and that it meets the requirements of ANSI B30.9.
- A frequent inspection should be made by the person handling the sling each day the sling is used. A better idea is to have it inspected each time it is used. This will ensure any damage that occurs during the day is noticed.
- A periodic inspection should be conducted by designated personnel. Frequency of inspection should be based on frequency of use, severity of conditions and experiences gained by using slings in similar applications. Periodic inspection should be conducted at least annually.

Inspection Records

Written inspection records utilizing the identification for each sling as established by the user should be kept for all slings. These records should show a description of the new sling and its condition at each periodic inspection.

Sling Identification

Each sling shall be permanently marked to show the name or trademark of the manufacturer, the manufacturer's code or stock number rated loads for the types of hitches to be used, and the type of synthetic web material. In a nutshell, if the type of configuration you intend to use for that sling is not included on the manufacturer's tag, it's not rated for that purpose! The ANSI specification states that identification shall be permanent. If your inspection tag is not legible, discard the sling.

Removal Criteria

How many times have you heard, "That sling is fine, there are no red threads showing"? How many of these slings have you seen in use? How many of them were clean enough to see red threads? Remove slings from service if:

- There are any visible acid or caustic burns.
- There is melting or charring of any part of the sling.
- There are any holes, tears, cuts or snags in the sling.
- The stitching is worn or broken in the load-bearing splices. Check out the lifting eyes.
- There is excessive abrasive wear anywhere in the sling.
- Knots are in any part of the sling.
- Fittings are cracked, distorted or show signs of pitting or corrosion.

Sling Protection

Store slings in an area where they are not subject to damage. Use protectors on slings to prevent abrasion, cuts and other physical damage. Slings are an expendable item. When their useful service life is over, make sure they are disposed of in a manner which will prevent other people from reusing them. You bet your life every time you use a sling! Let's make it an educated wager.

