

guidance on the  
**chains, ropes & lifting gear**

(Jersey) regulations 1980





# Foreword



On 5th February, 1980 the States of Jersey passed the Safeguarding of Workers (Chains, Ropes and Lifting Gear) (Jersey) Regulations, 1980 and these Regulations came into force on 1st May, the same year.

The Regulations are designed to achieve and maintain minimum safety standards for the construction, use and maintenance, of chains, ropes, and lifting gear, the failure of which invariably results in persons being exposed to the risk of serious injury.

The object of this guide is to explain the requirements of these Regulations and to assist all persons to achieve compliance with the Law.

This guide should not be taken as authoritative or comprehensive as it does not take the place of the actual Regulations 05.300.65, printed copies of which are available from the States of Jersey Book Shop, States Greffe, Morier House, St. Helier. Copies may also be downloaded from [www.jerseylegalinfo.je](http://www.jerseylegalinfo.je)

Further advice on these requirements, or any matters relating to the safety of employed persons, can be obtained by contacting the Health and Safety Inspectorate at the Social Security Department.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Routier".

Senator P Routier

Minister for Social Security





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# Part 1 ~ Introductory



## REGULATION 1 ~ INTERPRETATION

The Regulations apply to chains, ropes and lifting gear used in a manner as described in Regulation 2.

"Lifting Gear" for the purpose of these Regulations means a sling of any description, ring, link, hook, triangular lifting eye, shackle, swivel, eyebolt, plate clamp, lifting beam, lifting frame and any other device as may be prescribed by the Minister for Social Security. Other terms or expressions contained in the Regulations are defined in Regulation 1 of the Regulations.


## REGULATION 2 ~ APPLICATION

The Regulations apply to the process of raising, lowering or suspending loads from chains, ropes or lifting gear where any risk of injury may exist to any employed persons in the vicinity.

The Regulations will not apply to agricultural land except where building operations or works of engineering construction are being carried out. They will, however, apply to any factory process such as grading, packing or similar operations involving agricultural produce.

The Regulations do not apply to domestic servants employed in private households.





## REGULATION 3 ~ OBLIGATIONS

The obligations of persons required to comply with the Regulations are clearly defined:-

### **Owner**

The owner of any chain, rope or item of lifting gear must comply with the whole of Part 2 of the Regulations.

### **Employer**

No employer shall allow any item of lifting gear which does not comply with Part 2 of the Regulations, to be used by persons employed by him.

### **Every Person**

Every person employed must co-operate with all concerned in observing and carrying out the requirements of the Regulations, and it is his duty to ensure that any non compliance or defect that may be discovered in any item to which these Regulations apply is promptly reported to his supervisor or employer.

No person, whether he is a contractor, employer or employee involved in work to which the Regulations apply, may wilfully or without reasonable cause do anything likely to endanger himself or others.

These obligations place a duty on every person involved to ensure that no defective or unsuitable equipment is used at any time which is likely to place any person at risk.

It is the duty of everyone to be constantly aware of the safety of himself and others.





## Part 2 ~ Chains, Ropes & Lifting Gear



### REGULATION 4 ~ CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF CHAINS, ROPES AND LIFTING GEAR

For all lifting gear, there are four important general requirements in the regulations:-

- It shall be of good construction.
- It shall be made from sound material.
- It shall be of adequate strength.
- It shall be free from patent defect, (obvious or visible defects).

This means that every piece of lifting gear must be properly designed, made from suitable material, properly constructed and be strong enough for the purpose or conditions for which it is to be used.

All lifting gear should be manufactured to the appropriate Standard and reference to the Standards is recommended before purchasing new equipment. This will help to ensure that any item of lifting gear selected will be suitable, of an approved design, and strong enough for its intended use.

Further information on relevant standards is available from British Standards Institution, 389 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 4AL. Tel: 0208 996 9000 or Website: [www.bsonline.bsi-global.com](http://www.bsonline.bsi-global.com)

All lifting gear must be properly maintained in an efficient working condition and kept in good repair.

### REGULATION 5 ~ INITIAL TESTING AND EXAMINATION OF CHAINS AND LIFTING GEAR

Before any chain or lifting gear, whether or not it forms part of a crane or lifting appliance, is taken into use for the first time, or after it has undergone any alterations or repair liable to affect its strength, a certificate of test and thorough examination by a competent person must be obtained. This certificate must contain the approved particulars and specify the Safe Working Load (S.W.L.) (See Appendix 1, form F.I.17). An accredited certificate of test and thorough examination from the manufacturers will be acceptable for the purpose of this Regulation.





### **Fibre Rope Slings**

This Regulation will not apply to slings made from natural or man-made fibre ropes, provided a certificate showing the minimum breaking strength has been obtained from the manufacturer to enable a competent person to assess the S.W.L.

Before such slings are taken into use for the first time, or after they have undergone any alteration or repair liable to affect their strength, the S.W.L. must also be assessed by a competent person.

Other relevant requirements concerning lifting gear will still apply to fibre slings.

### **Wire Rope Slings**

The same requirements apply to slings made from wire ropes, provided they meet the requirements of Regulation 6, and that any splice or loop in the rope has been made in accordance with Regulation 9. This means that slings manufactured with ferrule secured eye terminals must be proof load tested.

### **REGULATION 6 ~ INITIAL TESTING AND EXAMINATION OF WIRE ROPES**

No wire rope which forms part of a crane, lifting appliance or lifting gear, can be used for the first time after manufacture unless a sample of the rope has been tested to destruction, examined, and a certificate issued by a competent person. This is always provided by the manufacturer of the rope (see Appendix I, form F.I.18).

The certificate must contain approved particulars and specify the S.W.L. for the intended use of the rope. Certificates issued by the manufacturer are acceptable for the purpose of this Regulation.





## REGULATION 7 ~ PERIODIC EXAMINATIONS OF CHAINS, ROPES AND LIFTING GEAR

Every chain, wire rope or item of lifting gear must be thoroughly examined by a competent person at least once every six months.

Rope slings of all descriptions must be examined at least once every three months.

The competent person carrying out these examinations must include in the report the approved particulars (see Appendix I, form F.I.19).

If after any thorough examination the person forms the opinion that any chain, rope or lifting gear cannot be used safely, he must immediately advise, in writing, the owner or user who must then take that particular piece of equipment out of use.


In order to assess any defects, the item being examined should be reasonably clean and as far as possible free from any grease or rust. All examinations must be carried out in adequately illuminated conditions.

## REGULATION 8 ~ MARKING OF SAFE WORKING LOAD AND MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

All lifting gear must have clearly marked on it the Safe Working Load (S.W.L.) and a distinguishing number or mark.

The safe working load and identification can be marked either by stamping the item itself or in the form of a permanently attached label. Care must be taken to ensure that this information remains legible.





## REGULATION 9 ~ SPLICES IN ROPE

For the purpose of this Regulation a "splice" means the inter-weaving of the loose end of the rope into the main part of the rope in such a manner that it will tend to lock under tension.

No splice other than an eye or loop splice shall be made in any rope forming part of a lifting appliance or crane. This also means that two ropes cannot be joined together by means of a splice.

Eye or loop splices must be made with at least three full tucks. In making this splice each strand is tucked behind a corresponding strand against the lay of the rope. Three sets of tucks are made in this manner, then half the wires in each strand are cut out and two further tucks made. The ends of the splice can then be bound in the conventional way.

Other methods of splicing can be used provided they are proved to be as efficient as the above method.

No form of splice constructed with the tucks made in the same direction as the lay of the rope is acceptable in any wire rope sling.

Any eye or loop splice made in natural fibre rope slings must have at least three tucks, the tail or end of each strand being whipped or closely bound on completion of the splice.

An eye or loop splice made in a rope manufactured mainly or entirely from man-made fibre, must have at least four full tucks if the rope is less than one inch in diameter. For larger diameters at least four full tucks must be made, with an extra tuck containing at least 50% of the strands, which must then be suitably bound or whipped.





#### **REGULATION 10 ~ MISUSE OF CHAINS, ROPES AND LIFTING GEAR**

No item of lifting gear shall be used in a manner which is likely to damage it or affect the safe working load of that item of equipment.

Guidance on the safe use, care and maintenance of lifting gear is contained in Appendix II.

#### **REGULATION 11 ~ CHAIN OR LIFTING GEAR MANUFACTURED FROM WROUGHT IRON**

No item of lifting gear manufactured from or repaired with wrought iron can be used.

#### **REGULATION 12 ~ LIFTING GEAR MADE FROM SPECIAL STEELS**

All chains and lifting gear made from higher-tensile or alloy steel must be clearly marked with the appropriate prescribed grade mark.

Any item of lifting gear grade marked in this manner must not be subjected to any form of heat treatment that may affect the strength except for the purpose of repair.

Repairs to any higher tensile or alloy steel lifting gear can only be carried out under the supervision of a competent person.

#### **REGULATION 13 ~ HOOKS**

Every hook used for raising, lowering or suspending a load, must be provided with an efficient device to prevent the displacement of the sling or load, or be of such a shape or construction as to prevent, so far as practicable, the risk of displacement of anything attached to the hook.

#### **REGULATION 14 ~ MARKING OF LIFTING BEAMS AND FRAMES**

Every lifting beam or lifting frame must have its own weight clearly marked on it.





**REGULATION 15 ~ LOAD NOT TO EXCEED SAFE WORKING LOAD**

No lifting gear should be loaded beyond its safe working load except for testing purposes.

**REGULATION 16 ~ PREVENTION OF SNAGGING OF SLING HOOKS**

The unloaded hook of any sling attached to a crane or lifting appliance should be suitably secured so as to prevent it snagging or becoming accidentally attached to any other object.

**REGULATION 17 ~ POWERS OF INSPECTORS TO REMOVE LIFTING GEAR FROM PREMISES**

An Inspector may remove from any place to which these Regulations apply, for the purposes of carrying out any test or examination, any item of lifting gear which he has reasonable cause to believe may not comply with the Regulations or which may not continue to be used safely.

Any test or examination made in pursuance of this Regulation may be carried out in the presence of the owner if he so wishes.

The examinations or tests will be carried out by a competent person chosen by the Minister, and the results made available to the owner or person responsible for the use of that item of lifting gear.



## Part 3 ~ Miscellaneous

### REGULATION 18 ~ CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION

The Minister for Social Security may, subject to such conditions he/she feels necessary, issue a written certificate of exemption from all or any of the requirements of these Regulations, provided it will not endanger employees, or it is not considered reasonably practicable.

Certificates can be issued in respect of any premises, plant, equipment or any class or description of work. The Minister may, however, at his/her discretion cancel or withdraw any certificate made under this Regulation at any time.

### REGULATION 19 ~ REPORTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

All reports, records, certificates etc. required by the Regulations, must be kept readily available for inspection by an Inspector or any other person responsible for complying with the Regulations.

All necessary documents must be kept for a minimum period of four years.







# Appendix I



## CHAINS, ROPES AND LIFTING GEAR (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 1980

Approved particulars for the certificate of test and thorough examination of chain or lifting gear before being taken into use for the first time after manufacture or after alteration or repair, liable to affect the strength as required by Regulation 5 of the above Regulations.

### Certificate of Test and Examination of Chain or Lifting Gear

Certificate No. ....

1. Name and address of the owner .....  
of the item of chain or lifting gear ..... Post Code .....
2. Description of item(s). .....  
This should include size, material and .....  
particulars of any heat treatment .....
3. Distinguishing number or mark .....  
(where applicable) .....
4. Grade mark (where applicable) .....
5. Date of test and examination .....
6. No. tested and examined .....
7. Proof Load applied .....
8. Safe Working Load .....
9. Name and address of maker, .....  
supplier or repairer ..... Post Code .....
10. Name and address of firm, company, .....  
association or person undertaking .....  
the test and examination ..... Post Code .....
11. Name, position and qualification .....  
of person who carried out the test .....  
and examination .....
12. I certify on behalf of the firm, company, association or person named in (10) and (11) above  
that the items described herein were tested and thereafter examined and were found to be  
free from any defect liable to affect the safe working load:

Signature .....  
Date .....  
Position .....

Note: One tonne considered equivalent to one ton



## CHAINS, ROPES AND LIFTING GEAR (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 1980

Approved particulars for the certificate of test and thorough examination of wire rope before being taken into use for the first time after manufacture, as required by Regulation 6 of the above Regulations.

### Part 1 - Certificate of Test and Examination of Wire Rope

Certificate No. ....

1. Name and address of the maker .....  
or supplier of the rope ..... Post Code .....
  
2. a) Diameter of rope .....  
b) No. of strands .....  
c) No. of wires per strand .....  
d) Lay .....
  
3. Tensile strength of wire rope .....
  
4. a) Date of test of sample of rope .....  
b) Load at which this sample broke .....  
c) Guaranteed minimum breaking strength of rope .....  
d) Safe working load for general use .....
  
5. Name and address of firm .....  
or organisation making the test ..... Post Code .....
  
6. Position in firm named above,  
of person who made the test .....
  
7. Declaration I hereby certify on behalf of the firm or organisation  
in (5) that the above particulars are correct:
  
- Signature .....
- Date .....
- Position .....





## Part 2 - Details of Safe Working Load

8. Being aware that the intended use of the rope to which this certificate applies is (see Note) .....

I hereby certify that subject to any conditions specified in 9 below, the safe working load of the wire rope for that use is .....tonnes.

9. State any qualifying conditions governing the above safe working load. If none enter 'none' .....

10. Name and address of the firm or organisation certifying 8 and 9 above ..... Post Code .....

11. Signature .....  
Date .....  
Position .....

### Note:

- a. This part is completed by the competent person re-assessing the safe working load for the wire rope when used as part of a crane lifting appliance or lifting gear.
- b. One tonne may be considered equivalent to one ton.



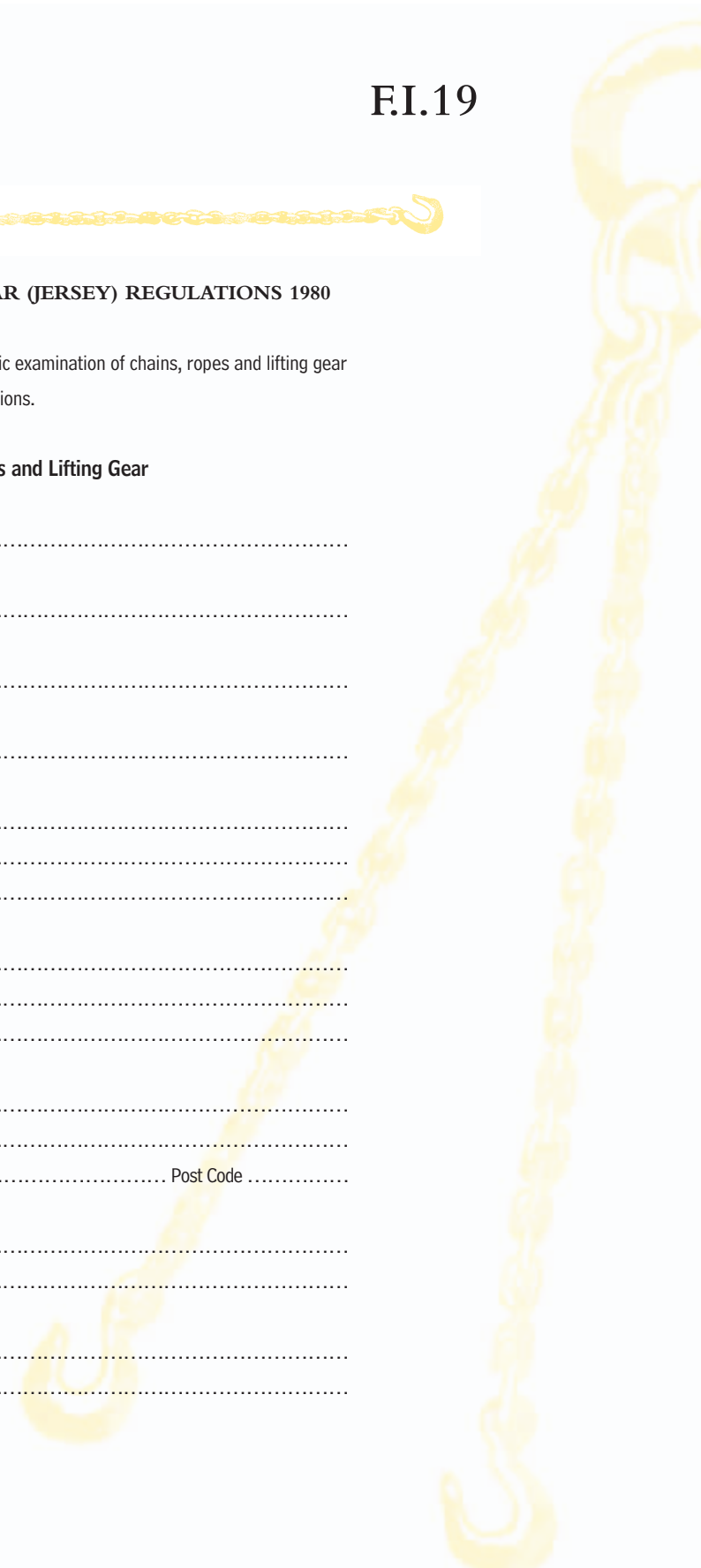


## CHAINS, ROPES AND LIFTING GEAR (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 1980

Approved particulars for the report of the periodic examination of chains, ropes and lifting gear as required by Regulation 7 of the above Regulations.

### Report of the Examination of Chains, Ropes and Lifting Gear

1. Date of thorough examination .....
2. Description of item(s) .....
3. Distinguishing No. or mark .....
4. No. of Certificate (if applicable) .....
5. Particulars of any defects found  
at the thorough examination. ....  
If none, enter 'none' .....
6. Details of action taken or to be  
taken to remedy any defects  
described in (5) .....
7. Name and address of firm, company, .....,  
organisation or person undertaking .....,  
the test and examination ..... Post Code .....
8. Name, position and qualification of .....,  
person who carried out the examination .....
9. Signature of person carrying .....,  
out the examination .....





## Appendix II (I)

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SAFE USE, CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF CHAINS

1. The main causes of deterioration which occur in chain slings and chain are loss of metal due to wear, abrasion, corrosion and overloading, resulting in permanent stretch or physical damage.
2. The effect of a particular level of deterioration or damage often depends on the grade of chain being inspected and this can be checked from the identification marks and records which must be available.
3. The various grades of steel chain slings should be marked on every twentieth link or at 3 ft (920mm ) intervals, whichever is the lesser distance. This quality grade mark should also be stamped on the top and bottom terminal fittings.
4. Any chain or fitting that has permanently stretched 5% or more due to overloading, or has been bent or distorted in any way, should be withdrawn from service immediately.
5. The following measures should always be taken into consideration when chain lifting gear is used:-
  1. Never overload a chain.
  2. Never use a chain in which the links are locked, stretched or are without free movement.
  3. Never hammer a chain to straighten a link or to force a link into position.
  4. Never use an excessively pitted, corroded or worn chain.
  5. Special precautions should be taken and a stronger chain or sling used:
    - When the exact loading is in doubt.
    - When there is liability to shock.
    - When the conditions are abnormal or severe.
    - When there is exceptional hazard to life and limb.
  6. The following precautions should always be strictly observed:
    - Do not cross, twist, kink or knot any chain.
    - Do not drag a chain from under a load.
    - Do not drop a chain from a height.
    - Do not roll loads over a chain, or let running loads pass over chains lying on the ground.
    - Do not use a chain around sharp corners without protective padding.
    - Do not form a loop by inserting the point of a hook into a link.



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7. Special care should be taken to avoid snatching i.e. sudden loading in cold weather.
  8. Careful periodic inspection reduces hazard and increases safety.
  9. Chain life is increased by lubrication.
  10. Chains should be stored in dry and sheltered places.
  11. Chains should always be repaired by a fully qualified repairer capable of providing the necessary heat treatment, proof resting and inspection.
  12. Always ensure the safe working load is clearly marked.
  13. Chain slings should only be used for the purpose for which they have been designed.
  14. Remember, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

## Appendix II (II)

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SAFE USE, CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF WIRE ROPES AND SLINGS

#### 1. Storage

Until required, steel wire ropes and slings should be stored in a clean, dry place, preferably under cover, free from damp and rain and away from boilers or escaping steam. Ropes, except when on reels, should be raised from the ground on planks, and coils should be coated with protective grease and covered with sacking. Periodical inspection and renewal of anti-corrosive grease is desirable.

#### 2. Handling and Uncoiling

Steel wire ropes are usually supplied in coils or on reels. Correct handling and uncoiling particularly of Langs' lay rope, is of the utmost importance if damage by kinking and untwisting is to be avoided.

#### 3. Kinks

Possibly the most common form of damage to a wire rope or sling due to improper handling, is the formation of a kink. A kink starts with the formation of a loop and although it can be formed in a rope in service, it is usually encountered during the handling of a rope prior to being used.

A loop which has not been drawn tightly enough can easily be removed by turning the rope in the correct direction to restore the lay. If the loop is pulled up tightly, the rope is irreparably damaged; a severe distortion results, and at the particular spot the individual wires will never assume their correct position.

Normal service can never be depended upon after a rope has been kinked. Abrasion and fatigue usually develop rapidly, and owing to distortion, undetected damage can sometimes lead to dangerous situations.

#### 4. Lubrication

Correct lubrication of wire ropes is essential if the ropes are to give satisfactory service. Good lubrication not only prolongs the life of the rope but helps to reduce friction, corrosion, and preserves the internal parts.

All ropes are lubricated internally and nearly all externally during manufacture but care should be taken to see that an approved neutral lubrication is externally applied at frequent intervals during use, and whilst not in use, if it is practicable to do so.

If the rope is exposed to the elements a thicker lubricant is recommended. Before the application of lubricants the rope should be clean and dry. Advice should always be sought from the manufacturer as to the most suitable cleaning solvent and lubricant.

#### 5. Wear and Routine Inspection

The strength of a wire rope or sling is continually being reduced during service owing to the action of abrasion, bending, corrosion and other factors. Any noticeable reduction in the diameter of the rope, excessive abrasion, or broken wires indicates a serious deterioration in the rope and should be inspected by a competent person without delay.





# Appendix II (III)

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SAFE USE, CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF NATURAL FIBRE ROPES AND SLINGS

### 1. Storage

Wet or damp rope should never be left lying around as this will tend to start the rope rotting at the interior. Wet rope should always be allowed to dry naturally as too much heat will cause the fibres to become brittle very quickly. When not in use fibre ropes and slings should be 'flacked down' in a dry well ventilated storage area, or hung on wooden or galvanised pegs. Some ropes or slings can be treated with a water repellent or rot proofed by the manufacturer.

### 2. Use and Signs of Damage

When lifting loads with sharp edges the corners should always be suitably packed to prevent unnecessary damage.

Where a rope is reeved through a block, the groove should be of an adequate diameter of not less than six times the rope diameter, and no rope should be reeved through a block where the width of the groove is less than the diameter of the rope. Always ensure the grooves of the block are smooth and provide an efficient seating for the rope.

A reduction in the diameter of the rope indicates that the rope has been strained and should be destroyed or used for a non-lifting purpose.

The individual fibres of a rope should appear healthy and strong. However, if they are powdery, discoloured or can be pulled out of the rope, rot (mildew) has occurred and the rope should be withdrawn from service.

Particular care should be taken to ensure rope is not used where there is a possibility of it coming into contact with any chemicals. Chemical action on a rope can, in some cases, be difficult to detect so if there is a risk of contamination, man-made fibre rope may be more suitable.

Natural fibre rope and rope slings are easily damaged and care must be taken to ensure they are not abused. The Regulations require a thorough examination every three months, nevertheless, constant checks should be made to ensure there is no obvious damage to the rope that may affect its safe use.



## Appendix II (iv)

### MAN-MADE FIBRE BELT SLINGS

Many of the principles previously mentioned in this guide concerning the safe use of lifting gear also apply to the use of nylon and other synthetic belt slings. However, special attention should be paid to the following:-

1. It is illegal to use a damaged sling.
2. It is advisable to inspect the sling before each lift.
3. Protect the sling from any sharp edges on the load.
4. Never, under any circumstances, attempt to repair a damaged sling.
5. Always avoid placing the splice or sewed join over the hook.
6. Avoid angles in excess of  $120^{\circ}$  between the legs of the sling.
7. Do not cross or twist slings under loading.
8. Never pull a sling out from underneath a load while the full weight is resting on it.
9. Loads should not rest directly on the sling; dunnage or chocks should be used.
10. Do not drag slings over rough surfaces.
11. Avoid any snatch or shock loading.
12. Always check the safe working load of the sling before making the lift.
13. Contact with alkalis and acids should be avoided.
14. Belt slings should only be used in the manner and conditions for which they have been designed.



## Appendix II (v)

### DISPOSABLE FLAT BELT LIFTING SLINGS

Some cargoes arrive in the Island complete with a flat belt sling attached to the load. These slings fall into two main categories, those woven from man-made fibres such as polypropylene, polythene or similar material, or the Span Set Unisling type consisting of plastic covered nylon strands. These slings can be in the form of a single belt or a number of belts fabricated into a pattern, either of which may have soft eyes or metal fittings. Disposable flat belt slings are specifically designed for the convenient handling of a single certified load and usually marked with a Safe Working Load (S.W.L.) of 1050 or 2000 kilogrammes (K.G.).

Once removed from its original load the sling must not be used for lifting purposes unless the following measures are taken to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

1. Every sling must be thoroughly examined by a competent person before being used for the first time. The report of this thorough examination must include the approved particulars contained in Appendix I, Form F.I.17 (Regulation 5). The report must be kept readily available for inspection by an Inspector (Regulation 19).
2. Each sling must be clearly marked with a Safe Working Load (S.W.L.) not exceeding 840 lbs (7½ cwt) or 380 kilogrammes (K.G.) and a distinguishing number or mark (Regulation 8).
3. The sling must be thoroughly examined by a competent person at least once every three months (Regulation 7).
4. The recommendations for the safe use of nylon belt slings on page 24 should be followed when using the disposable type of sling.

# Notes





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