

# Toolbox talk - Sling Safety Inspections

No matter how careful you are with sling use and storage, slings of every type wear out over time. Worn out slings are very dangerous and should never be used. Conduct regular inspections of the slings you will be using and take them out of service if they're not in good condition.

- Get in the habit of inspecting your slings before each and every use. A quick inspection takes very little time and is well worth the effort since defective slings are very hazardous.
- Check for any and all signs of damage and excessive wear.
- Be sure to carefully inspect any permanently attached fittings as well.
- If during your inspection you become unsure about whether a sling is safe to use, check with your supervisor before you use it.
- When you come across a defective sling, take it out of service immediately. Follow your company's procedure for taking defective equipment out of service.
- If your company does not have a policy for handling defective equipment be sure to tag the sling as defective so that no one else will use it. Make the tag large and conspicuous. It is also a good idea to take it out of the lift operations area so that it is not inadvertently used by someone else.
- Be sure to inform your supervisor about the defective sling. Let him know where you placed it and that you tagged it out of service.