

Toolbox talk - Rigging Hardware Safety Inspections (Part 2)

Rigging hardware weakens over time from normal use. The shelf life decreases even further when the hardware is misused and abused. Weakened rigging hardware won't support the rated capacities established by the manufacturer when the hardware was new. It is dangerous to use and should be taken out of service immediately. Learn how to inspect rigging hardware so that you will know when it is time to replace it.

- First look carefully at each piece of rigging hardware for identification markings. If the identification information is missing, the hardware is defective.
- Carefully examine each piece looking for cuts, gouges, corrosion, rust and pitting. Look for areas that were melted, show signs of welding arc strikes, hot slag or other heat-induced markings.
- Pay special attention to the areas of the hardware that bear most of the weight during lifting operations.
- Watch for bent, twisted, stretched, cracked and broken parts of the hardware.
- Observe the threads of shackles and other hardware that use screw-in pins. If the threads appear damaged or stripped, it does not seat properly or it appears stretched, the hardware is defective.

If you're not sure whether a piece of rigging hardware is defective, take it out of service and check with your supervisor before using it.