

# Toolbox talk - Choosing a Safe Rigging Sling

The most frequently used slings in the mechanical construction industry are synthetic web slings, synthetic round slings, wire rope slings and alloy steel chain slings. There are pros and cons to each type of sling. The safest sling for one type of lift operation may not be the safest one for another type of lift. Several things to consider while choosing a sling for a specific application follow.

- Is the sling compatible with the type of hitch you need to use to perform the lift safely? The rated capacities of slings change depending on the type of hitch. For example, the rated capacity of a synthetic round sling used with a choker hitch is considerably less than the same sling used with a basket hitch. Be sure to check the manufacturer's rated capacities of each sling according to the type of hitch you need to use. The information will be on the sling.
- Do the design and composition of the sling make it strong enough to perform the work safely? Be sure to consider reductions for sling angles.
- Are all parts of the sling in good condition?
- Is all of the rigging hardware in good condition?
- Is the sling compatible with the rigging hardware?
- Will the type of sling and hitch that you are thinking about using keep the load secure and stable?
- Could the specific lifting operation cause the sling to break or become damaged during the lift?