

Toolbox talk - Establishing the Weight of the Load

To ensure the safety of rigging operations, manufacturers are required to establish rated capacities for rigging slings and rigging hardware. Riggers must be able to determine whether the load to be lifted weighs more than the rated capacity established for each piece of rigging equipment. Therefore, riggers must be able to determine the weight of the load.

- Manufacturers often paint the weight per foot on the pipe. Just multiply the weight per foot times the length of the pipe in feet.
- You can also determine the weight of pipe using a pipe chart.
- If you have to calculate the weight of a piece of pipe, check with your supervisor to obtain the pipe weight calculation formula.
- When lifting more than one object of the same weight, count the number of pieces per lift and multiply that number by the weight of one of the objects.
- For HVAC units, check to see if the weight is listed on the equipment. If not, contact the manufacturer or supplier and request the specifications in writing.
- To determine the weights of other types of equipment such as pumps, fans, welders, boilers, etc., contact the manufacturer or supplier and request the specifications in writing.
- When determining the weight of compressed gas cylinders, first determine whether the cylinders are full or empty. If the cylinders are partially full, treat them as if they are completely full for the purpose of your calculation. Use approved cylinder handling cages/devices and include its weight in your calculation. Large cylinders typically weigh 240 lbs. full and 220 lbs. empty.