



National Grain and Feed Association

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NGFA Safety Tips: Lifting, Rigging and Hoisting

...Committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace...

Safety is priority #1 when performing lifting operations in the workplace...

Moving large, heavy loads is customary in today's agricultural and agribusiness industries. Technology has been developed for these operations. But it still requires careful training and extensive workplace precautions. Significant safety issues must be considered, both for the operators of the diverse "lifting" devices, and for employees in proximity to such equipment.

Safety is the **first priority** when performing any task, including lifting operations. An understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the equipment involved in the process also is important. The safety policy, "If It's Not Safe, Don't Do It" applies not only to your safety, but also to the safety of your fellow employees and coworkers.

OVERHEAD LIFTING

"Process of lifting that would elevate a freely suspended load to such a position that dropping a load would present a possibility of bodily injury or property damage."

Thought Process of Rigging

- What is to be done with the load?
- What tools are needed to perform the assigned task?
- Is the capacity of the tools adequate to handle the loads and forces involved in lifting and moving?
- How can the hookup be made?
- What will happen when the load is lifted?

Safe Rigging Practices

- Whenever possible, avoid sharp, inefficient sling angles by using longer slings or a spreader beam.
- Do not pull slings from under a load when the load is resting on the sling.
- Do not drag slings over sharp objects or abrasive surfaces.
- Do not leave slings lying where heavy loads may be set down on top of them, or where vehicles may drive over them.
- Slings should be stored in an assigned area.

NGFA Safety Program

- The NGFA is committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace, and shares the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) commitment to protecting employees.
- The NGFA's extensive efforts to enhance safety include unprecedented research and education efforts launched in the early 1980s that helped lead to a dramatic reduction in the number of fire and explosion incidents in commercial grain-handling facilities.
- Each year, NGFA jointly sponsors regional safety seminars with affiliated state and regional grain and feed associations. The one-day conferences focus on keeping grain handling employees physically safe.

- The storage should be such that the slings will not be subject to kinking or other mechanical damage, corrosive atmosphere or excessive temperature.
- Damaged slings should always be repaired before they are placed in the assigned storage area.
- Do **NOT** make temporary repairs of slings with miscellaneous or makeshift parts.
- Fiber-rope slings should not be made from ropes less than ½-inch in diameter.
- Do not use metal-mesh slings in which the spirals are locked or do not move freely.
- Do NOT hammer a metal-mesh sling to straighten a spiral or cross rod, or to force a spiral into position.
- If metal-mesh slings are used in pairs, they should be attached to a spreader beam.

Training Requirements

Pursuant to OSHA’s Lifting, Rigging and Hoisting regulations, [29 CFR 1926.32](#), the employer shall train employees on regulations applicable to their work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury. Specifically, an employer must select and properly train employees in all lifting, rigging and hoisting operations for the following roles:

- The term "competent person" is used in many OSHA standards and documents. It means one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions, which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.
- The term “designated personnel” means selected or assigned by the employer or the employer’s representative as being qualified to perform specific duties.
- “Qualified” means one who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training and experience, has successfully demonstrated his ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

Disclaimer: The National Grain and Feed Association make no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, application or use of the information contained in this publication. Further, nothing contained herein is intended as legal notice. Competent legal counsel should be consulted on legal issues. Grain handling facilities should contact experienced safety and health legal counsel or a third-party expert if they have questions about the proper way to implement the items addressed in the document.

More safety information at www.ngfa.org

Contact VP Safety and Regulatory Affairs Jess McCluer or Manager of Regulatory Affairs; Education and Training Jim Seibert at 202-289-0873.

NGFA | 1400 Crystal Dr. | Suite 260 | Arlington | Virginia | 22206

NGFA Reference Corner

OSHA Grain Handling Standard

[CLICK HERE](#)

OSHA CFR 1926.251 Rigging Equipment for Material Handling

[CLICK HERE](#)

OSHA Lifting / Hoisting / Rigging Resources

[CLICK HERE](#)

OSHA CFR 1910.753 Hoisting and Rigging

[CLICK HERE](#)

Hoisting and Rigging Fundamentals

[CLICK HERE](#)

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