Sling Inspection Checklist: Pre-Use Lifting Accessory Checks

Frequency	Completed by	Approved by	The checklist
Before each use	Rigger, slinger or designated competent person	Lifting supervisor	32 checks · 5 sections

INSPECTION DETAILS

Site / work location: _____ Accessory ID, tag or serial number: _____

Accessory type: _____ Marked rated capacity (WLL) (t): _____

Lift or task: _____ Date and time: _____

Identification and records

1.	The accessory carries a legible tag or marking showing its rated capacity CRITICAL No legible marking means the accessory is not used. Ref.: [1] [3] [4]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
2.	The marking shows the details needed for its type Chain: size, grade, rated capacity, reach. Wire rope: safe working load for the hitch, the angle it is based on, number of legs. Synthetic web: rated capacity per hitch and the material. Ref.: [1] [2] [3]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
3.	The latest periodic inspection or thorough examination is recorded and not overdue CRITICAL Türkiye: authorised person, yearly unless the standards set another interval. UK: thorough examination every 6 months unless an examination scheme says otherwise. US: chain slings at least every 12 months, with a record. Ref.: [3] [4] [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

Visual checks for every accessory

4.	The sling is not shortened or joined with knots, bolts or makeshift links CRITICAL Ref.: [1] [2]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

5.	The sling legs are not kinked **CRITICAL** Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
6.	Hooks have no cracks, and are not opened out or twisted **CRITICAL** OSHA removes hooks opened more than 15% of the normal throat opening (narrowest point) or twisted more than 10° from the plane of the unbent hook. A safety latch, where fitted, should close the opening. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
7.	Master links, coupling links, end fittings, shackles and eyebolts have no cracks, bending or other deformation **CRITICAL** The daily check covers the sling and all its fastenings and attachments. Shackles must also show their working load limit. Ref.: [1] [2] [3]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
8.	There is no sign of heat damage (discolouration, melting, charring) **CRITICAL** OSHA limits: chain slings removed if heated above 1000 °F; fibre-core wire rope above 200 °F; nylon and polyester webbing not used above 180 °F. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

Checks by accessory type

Complete only the block for the accessory's type and mark the others N/A.

9.	Chain: no cracked, deformed or stretched links and no defective welds **CRITICAL** Lay the chain out straight and look along it for links that are longer, bent or nicked. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
10.	Chain: link wear is within the allowed limit **CRITICAL** OSHA Table N-184-1 gives the minimum size at any point of a link (e.g. 25/64 in for 1/2 in chain). Otherwise use the manufacturer's wear limits. Ref.: [1] [2]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
11.	Wire rope: fewer than 10 broken wires in one rope lay and fewer than 5 in one strand in one lay **CRITICAL** Removal criterion in OSHA 1910.184(f)(5)(i): ten randomly distributed broken wires in one rope lay, or five broken wires in one strand in one rope lay. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
12.	Wire rope: outside wires are not worn or scraped by a third of their original diameter **CRITICAL** Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

13.	Wire rope: no kinking, crushing, bird caging or other distortion of the rope CRITICAL Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
14.	Wire rope: no corrosion of the rope or its end attachments CRITICAL Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
15.	Wire rope: eyes are not formed with wire rope clips or knots, and protruding strand ends at splices are covered or blunted CRITICAL Ref.: [2]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
16.	Synthetic sling: no snags, punctures, tears or cuts CRITICAL For round slings, also check the cover and follow the manufacturer's discard criteria. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
17.	Synthetic sling: no broken or worn stitches CRITICAL Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
18.	Synthetic sling: no acid or caustic burns CRITICAL Nylon is not used near acids or phenolic fumes; polyester and polypropylene not near caustics. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
19.	Fibre rope: no abnormal wear, broken or cut fibres, powdered fibre between strands, uneven strands, discolouration or rot CRITICAL Repaired or reconditioned fibre rope slings are not used. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

Rigging the load

20.	The accessory suits the load, its lifting points, the connecting parts and the conditions (heat, chemicals, weather) CRITICAL Ref.: [3] [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
21.	The load is within the capacity marked for the hitch and leg angle being used CRITICAL Capacity changes with the hitch (straight, choke, basket) and falls as the leg angle widens; read the value for this configuration. Ref.: [1] [4]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
22.	Hooks, rings, links and shackles in the set are rated at least as high as the sling, or the set is used at its weakest part's rating CRITICAL Ref.: [1] [2]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
23.	The sling is padded or protected where it passes over sharp edges of the load CRITICAL Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

24.	The sling is securely attached and basket hitch loads are balanced so they cannot slip CRITICAL Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
25.	Hands and fingers are kept out from between sling and load while the sling is tightened Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
26.	No one is under the load or in its path, and loads will not pass over unprotected workplaces CRITICAL Ref.: [1] [3]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
27.	The accessory is not used to lift people unless it is provided for that purpose CRITICAL Ref.: [3]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
28.	The load will be taken up without shock loading, and the sling will not be pulled from under a resting load Ref.: [1] [2]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

Result

29.	Every defect found has been reported in writing to the lifting supervisor Ref.: [4] [1]	◯ Yes ◯ No ◯ N/A
30.	Any accessory that failed a critical check has been removed from service and tagged or quarantined CRITICAL Do not repair slings on site: OSHA allows repairs only by the manufacturer or an equivalent entity, and bans repaired fibre rope slings. Ref.: [1] [2]	◯ Yes ◯ No ◯ N/A
31.	After use, accessories are stored where they cannot be damaged and are kept out of the immediate work area Ref.: [3] [2]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
32.	Notes and defects found	Note: _____

Critical check: if it fails, stop and correct it before work continues.

SIGN-OFF

Inspected by

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Lifting supervisor

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Legal basis and references

[1] United States: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.184, Slings — (c): safe operating practices and identification markings; (d): daily inspection before use by a competent person; (e): chain slings (marking, attachments, 12-month periodic inspection, wear, hooks); (f): wire rope slings (marking, temperature, removal criteria); (h): fibre rope slings; (i): synthetic web slings (marking, chemicals, temperature, repairs, removal criteria).

[2] United States: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.251, Rigging equipment for material handling — (a): inspection before each shift, markings, removal from the work area when not in use, daily sling inspection; (b): chain attachments and makeshift fasteners; (c): wire rope splices and eyes; (e): web sling marking; (f): shackle and hook working loads.

[3] Türkiye: İş Ekipmanlarının Kullanımında Sağlık ve Güvenlik Şartları Yönetmeliği (Resmî Gazete, 25.04.2013) — Art. 7: periodic inspection by authorised persons, records, EKİPNET number; Annex I 3.2.2–3.2.2.1: marking of maximum load and of accessories; Annex II 3.1.2–3.1.5: lifting people, no one under loads, selection and storage of accessories; Annex III 1.3: operator checks before work; Annex III Table 2: accessories (slings, clamps, vacuum and magnetic lifters) yearly unless the standards set another interval.

[4] United Kingdom: HSE: Thorough examination and inspection of lifting equipment (LOLER) — Thorough examination of lifting accessories every 6 months unless an examination scheme sets other intervals; pre-use checks on chains and slings; defects reported and equipment not used until remedied. Marking of SWL and accessory characteristics: HSE LOLER overview page.

Fill in this checklist on your phone. Scan to download FindRisk: run the checklist, add photos, score risks and share a PDF report in minutes.

Version 1 · Updated November 19, 2026 · findrisk.net/checklists/lifting-accessories-inspection-checklist/