

TAKING CARE OF GLOVE SLINGS

No sling should ever be used to lift more than its rated load (see label).

SLING CONDITION – PRE-USE CHECKS

Slings should be visually checked at least to the list below prior to use.

Ensure:

- The sling is the correct size and type for the client and it is fit for purpose.
- The sling and hoist are compatible.
- All labels are legible and show the maximum load, unique identifier and size.
- There are no signs of fraying, tears, permanent shrinkage or deterioration etc.
- All stitching is present and intact.
- The hook and loop fastenings (if applicable) are clean and free of fibres/fluff etc; ensure the fastenings are operating correctly before use.
- All buckles and clips (if applicable) are showing no signs of damage etc.
- All straps and loops are showing no signs of damage, fraying etc.
- The sling has been cleaned and if appropriate, decontaminated.

The above check list is provided as an example based on guidelines published by the Health and Safety Executive and developed in conjunction with National Back Exchange (Yorkshire branch).



SLING INSPECTION

To make visual inspection easier, strap attachment stitching is in a contrasting colour.



AVOIDING HOOK & LOOP DAMAGE

It is important to close hook and loop fastenings before laundering a sling, or damage to the fabric and webbing will occur, as shown above.



AVOIDING FADED LABELS

Faded labels will occur when a sling has been washed with bleach, stain removers or is laundered through an Ozone system. Although labels can be replaced, the sling itself should be carefully inspected for fabric degradation.

NOTE: Faded labels are a result of incorrect washing; they are not considered a warranty repair.

WEEKLY INSPECTION

Slings should be visually checked to the list above at least once a week and a record kept including the unique identification of the sling (typically a serial number), the name of the person conducting the inspection and the date of the inspection. These records should be retained until the disposal of the sling or the completion of any incident investigation, whichever is the later (Based on a recommendation by the HSE).

If you have any doubt about sling safety, remove the sling from use until checked and authorised for use by a competent person.