

Auditing & Periodic Inspection Requirements of Slings (Non-rigid Body Supports)

Frequency & Meaning

Periodic inspection of slings should be undertaken at least every 6 months. If the sling unit is used or cleaned more frequently than normal, more frequent inspections may be required. Periodic inspection should also comply with manufacturers requirements. By periodic inspection is meant a visual examination particularly of the slings load bearing structure, which includes fabric, lifting straps, stitching and attachment mechanisms/clips and essential identification markings/labels (see Defects).

Qualified Personnel

Inspections should be performed by a suitably and properly qualified person that is well acquainted with the design, care and use of the sling. The inspection should be to find signs of damage, wear or potential failure potentially causing injury or death to patient and/or operator.

Records

The recorded inspection should be stored safely and easily accessible for examination in the event of an incident. The record of inspection should include the following information:

- Inspection date
- Serial number and identification details of the sling.
- Detailed information regarding the sling condition
- Due date of next periodic inspection
- Name, position and signature of inspector.

Defects

In the event the periodic inspection reveals a defect, damage or wear that jeopardises the safety of the sling, patient or operator, the owner should be notified immediately. This should also be recorded on the inspection report. In the

event of immediate danger to safety, the sling should be taken out of service immediately. It must not be used until the defect has been eliminated. Types of defects include:

- Sling label has become detached from sling
- Sling identification markings can't be read. These include:
 - a) Name and address of the manufacturer and, in addition, name and address of the supplier if different from the manufacturer.
 - b) Model detail.
 - c) Manufacturing lot or batch and/or serial number. Preference of serial number for traceability and inspection records.
 - d) Year and month of manufacture.
 - e) Maximum safe working load.
- Sling fabric is worn, frayed and/or damaged
- Sling Lifting strap/webbing is worn, frayed and/or damaged
- Stitching is worn, frayed and/or damaged
- Attachment mechanism or clip is damaged (e.g. Keyhole clip)

References:

AS/NZS ISO 10535-2011 Hoists for the transfer of disabled persons - Requirements and test methods.

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