

Prepare:	Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?
Reason:	Several fatal accidents occur each year involving lifting gear, caused by misuse or neglect of equipment.
Why:	It is people who cause accidents, not equipment.
Outline:	This talk will cover slings, chains, shackles, hooks and eyebolts.



- Check SWL on sling against load to be lifted
- Rope slings need not be marked with the SWL provided that a certificate of test is available and the SWL is known.
- Do not use fibre rope or wire slings for hot loads and keep them away from welding or flame cutting operations.
- Ensure no broken ends in wires or chafing on fibre ropes.

- Check condition of splices, rings and thimbles on slings.
- A sling doubled round a shackle has a SWL equivalent only to that of a single part of the rope.
- Protect wire rope or nylon slings from sharp edges.

- Make sure the chain is not kinked or twisted.
- DO not shorten a chain by knotting it
- Never lengthen a chain by joining pieces together
- Do not lubricate chain slings – oil can pick up abrasive materials such as sand and grit.
- Do not expose chains to acids or corrosive substances.

- Use the right type of shackle for the job in hand.
- Do not use any shackle which isn't marked with the SWL.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

TOOLBOX TALK #35

Lifting Accessories

NOTES

- Check bow and pin for damage, destroy if doubtful.
- Ensure pin is free, but not loose in tapped hole.
- When using a shackle with 'not and bolt' pin, the pin should be free to rotate when nut is tight.

Q: What would you check on a shackle before use?

Hooks and Eyebolts

- Check both hooks and eyebolts carefully for cracks, cuts, dents and corrosion pits.
- Swivel hooks should rotate freely.
- Always mouse hooks unless fitted with safety catch and make sure the catch operates freely.
- Check centre line of eye is central with threaded portion.

Q: What checks should be carried out on hooks and eyebolts before using them?

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: What must you have before using a rope sling?

Q: Name two things you must not do when using chains

Q: What would you do with a distorted shackle?

Q: If a hook isn't fitted with a catch, what would you do?

REMEMBER

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link – know the SWL of all lifting gear.

Sources: [Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 \(LOLER\) - HSE](#); [Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations \(LOLER\) - HSE](#)

For more information

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