

- Slings should always be protected from being damaged by sharp corners.
- Slings should not be dragged on the floor or over abrasive surface.
- Chain sling links should not be twisted or kinked.
- Slings should not be pulled from under loads if the load is nesting on the sling.
- Slings that appear to be damaged should not be used, unless inspected and accepted by designated person.
- Personnel, including portions of the human body, should be kept from between the sling and the load, and from between the sling and the crane hook or hoist hook.
- Personnel shall stand clear of the suspended load.
- Personnel shall not ride the sling.
- Shock loading should be avoided.
- Twisting or kinking the legs (branches) should be avoided.
- During lifting, with or without the load, personnel should be alert for possible snagging.
- When using a basket hitch, the legs of the sling should contain or support the load from the sides, above the center of gravity, so that the load remains under control.
- Sling shall be long enough so that the rated capacity of the sling is adequate when the angle of the legs (branches) is taken into consideration. (See Table 4 for Grade 100 Chain and Table 5 for Grade 80 Chain).

General Usage

It must be recognized that certain factors in the usage of chain and attachments can be abusive and lessen the load that the chain or attachments can withstand. Some examples are twisting of the chain; disfigurement; deterioration by straining, usage, weathering and corrosion; rapid application of load or jerking; applying excessive loads; sharp corner cutting, D/d, action and non-symmetrical loading effects.

Environmental Effects

- Excessive high or low temperatures or exposure to chemically active environments such as acid or corrosive liquids or fumes can reduce the performance of the chain and components.
- Extreme temperature will reduce the performance of alloy steel chain slings.
- Normal operating temperature is -40°F to 400°F (-40°C to 204°C).
- Reference temperature exposure chart to determine reduction of WLL due to operating at, and after exposure to, elevated temperatures (see Table 1 for Grade 80 Chain and Table 2 for Grade 100 chain).
- Chemically active environments can have detrimental effects on the performance of chain. The effects can be both visible loss of material and undetectable material degradation causing significant loss of strength.

Special Surface Coating/Plating/Galvanizing

- Chain should not be subjected to galvanizing, or any plating process. If it is suspected the chain has been exposed to chemically active environment, remove from service.

D/d	Reduction of Basket Hitch Rated Load
2	40%
3	30%
4	20%
5	10%
6 and above	none

Temperature of Chain		Temporary Reduction of Rated Load at Elevated Temperature	Permanent Reduction of Rated Load After Exposure to Temperature**
(F°)	(C°)		
Below 400	Below 204	None	None
400	204	10%	None
500	260	15%	None
600	316	20%	5%
700	371	30%	10%
800	427	40%	15%
900	482	50%	20%
1000	538	60%	25%
Over 1000	Over 538	OSHA 1910.184 requires all slings exposed to temperatures over 1000° F to be removed from service.	

* Crosby does not recommend the use of Alloy Chain at temperatures above 800° F.
** When chain is used at room temperature after being heated to temperatures shown in the first column.

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CHAIN INSPECTION INSPECTION AND REMOVAL FROM SERVICE PER ASME B30.9

Refer to ASME B30.9-1.9 for further information

Frequent Inspection

- A visual inspection for damage shall be performed by the user or designated person each day the sling is used.
- Conditions such as those listed in ASME B30.9-1.9.4 Removal Criteria, or any other condition that may result in a hazard, shall cause the sling to be removed from service. Slings shall not be returned to service until approved by a qualified person.
- Written records are not required for frequent inspections.

Periodic Inspection

- A complete inspection for damage of sling shall be periodically performed by a designated person. Each link and component shall be examined individually, taking care to expose and examine all surfaces including the inner link surface. The sling shall be examined for conditions such as those listed in ASME B30.9-1.9.4 Removal Criteria, and a determination made as to whether they constitute a hazard.
- Periodic Inspection Frequency: Periodic inspection intervals shall not exceed one year. The frequency of periodic inspections should be based on:
 - Frequency of sling use
 - Severity of service conditions
 - Nature of lifts being made
 - Experience gained on the service life of slings used in similar circumstances.