



Rigging Equipment: Inspect for Success

By: Timothy Janis, Construction Safety Council

Electrical construction work oftentimes involves the use of rigging systems (i.e., chains, slings, and hardware to attach and support loads) and hoisting equipment (i.e., cranes to perform lifting operations). The regular inspection of these items is an essential safety practice that serves many purposes.

First and foremost, inspections help to identify signs of wear and tear, corrosion, deformation, or other damage that may compromise the integrity of the equipment. Second, inspections ensure that the devices are being used in compliance with applicable standards and vendor guidelines.

Proactively recognizing safety issues before they escalate into jobsite hazards minimizes the risk of employee accidents and injuries, as well as property damage.

Newly-purchased rigging equipment should be inspected prior to initial use. Look for manufacturing defects and be sure that all product information tags are properly secured. In addition, the make, model, item number, date of purchase or manufacture, and description should be documented. This basic information is typically included in the packaging materials and operating instructions.

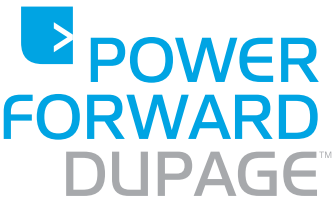
Thereafter, an ongoing record of the project team or individual crew members to which the equipment is assigned should be maintained. Frequent safety checks are especially necessary for items that are subject to heavy use; and annual inspections by a competent person should involve comparison measurements of equipment length and product dimensions. More elaborate non-destructive testing techniques, such as magnetic-particle testing, ultrasonic testing, and dye-penetrant testing, may be required to identify hidden defects that occur over an extended period of time.

Documentation of all inspections ensures accountability by employers and employees. It is recommended to maintain written logs that detail the dates, findings, corrective actions, and persons involved. These records can be particularly useful during regulatory audits and post-incident investigations.

The Construction Safety Council sponsors Rigging Hazard Awareness training throughout the year. This half-day course stresses the value of regularly assessing rigging and hoisting equipment, with an emphasis on potential risks, as well as how to prevent and record them. The training program contributes to a safe workplace environment that protects the most valuable asset of all – electrical construction workers.

PowerForward DuPage and the Construction Safety Council are pleased to partner in support of this continued effort to ensure that IBEW contractors and members **Work Smart, Build Safe.**

Timothy Janis is a Safety Training Specialist at the Construction Safety Council located in Hillside, Illinois. For more than 30 years, the Council has delivered programs and services in support of its mission to improve human safety performance through education and training. To learn more about Rigging Hazard Awareness and other construction safety training available to members of IBEW Local Union 701, visit www.bulldsafe.org.



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The Construction Safety Council, in partnership with the NECA-IBEW 701 Safety Committee, would like to remind you to Work Smart, Build Safe!



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