INSPECTION CRITERIA FOR CHAIN

The following photos illustrate some of the common damage that occurs and indicates the sling must be taken out of service. For inspection frequency requirements, see the General Information section in this catalog.

Stretched Chain Links

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Lengthening of the links and narrowing of the link width. Links that do not hinge freely with adjacent links are stretched and must be taken out of service; however, stretch **can** occur without this indicator. This damage indicates the sling has been extremely overloaded or subjected to shock loading.

TO PREVENT
Avoid overloading and shock loading.

Bent Chain Links

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Bending usually occurs in only one or two adjacent links. Links will have an irregular shape when compared to other links.

TO PREVENT
Bent links are usually the result of the chain going around the sharp edge of a load during a lift. Load edges must be padded to protect both chain and load.

Weld Spatter

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Metallic bumps on any link of chain.

TO PREVENT
The heat from weld spatter can adversely affect the strength of a chain link. Slings must be shielded from welding operations.

Gauged Chain Links

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Indentations on an otherwise smooth link surface.

TO PREVENT
Gouging of links is usually caused by heavy loads being dragged over or dropped onto the chain. Protect sling from these situations.

Scan and learn more about chain sling inspection criteria.

INSPECTION CRITERIA FOR CHAIN

Heat Damage

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Discolored areas of chain.

TO PREVENT
High temperatures begin to affect alloy chain strength at 400°F. When using chain slings at elevated temperatures, refer to the *Lift-All* temperature chart for working load reductions.

Worn Chain Links

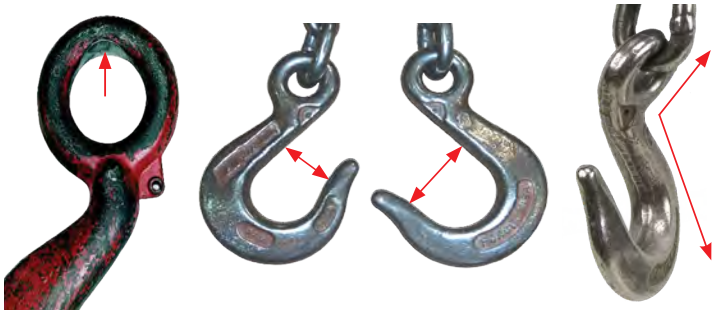
WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Excessive wear and a reduction of the material diameter, especially at the bearing points. Refer to *Lift-All* Wear Allowance Table for minimum allowable link thickness.

TO PREVENT
Wear is a natural result of sling use. Keeping load weights within the ratings of the slings being used will provide the maximum sling wear life.

Damaged Hardware

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Wear on any area of the hook exceeding 10% (or as recommended by the manufacturer) or hooks showing any bend or twist from the plane of the unbent hook should be removed from service.

TO PREVENT
Never tip load hooks or lift with hardware on a load edge.



Illegible or Missing Tags

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
If you cannot find or read all the information on a sling tag, OSHA requires the sling shall be taken out of service.

TO PREVENT
Never set loads down on top of slings or pull sling from beneath loads if there is any resistance. Load edges should never contact sling tags during the lift.