What Information Must Be On A Sling Identification Tag?

A closer look at the identification tag requirements for each type of lifting sling.

How important is a lifting sling's identification tag? *ASME B30.9* lists "missing or illegible sling identification" as the very first item under Removal Criteria for users who are inspecting any type of lifting sling.

A sling tag can provide the end-user with a wealth of valuable information, including:

- Manufacturer of the sling assembly, or the most recent entity to repair the sling
- Material the sling is manufactured from
- Rated load for at least one hitch type (and the sling angle upon which it is based)
- Individual sling identification (ex: serial number)
- Manufacturer code / stock number
- Number of legs (for bridle assemblies)

When putting a lift plan together, you can use the information on the sling tag to determine the best type of sling to use based on the rated load and the sling's capabilities in different hitch configurations and at different sling angles.

When you perform an initial inspection of your slings, always review the information provided on the sling tag. Double-check to make sure the information on the tag matches the specifications of what you ordered and what is required for your lifting application.

Also, if you encounter an issue with a lifting sling, you can contact the manufacturer directly to initiate a repair, or reference the serial number, manufacturer code, or stock number to order a replacement piece.

In this article, we'll explain what information is required on each type of sling identification tag, to make sure your lifting slings are marked in accordance with ASME B30.9 requirements.

Alloy Chain Sling Identification Tag Requirements

Alloy chain sling identification shall be done by the sling manufacturer, but should be maintained by the user so as to be legible during the life of the sling.

If during the course of a chain sling inspection, the user notes that the tag or identification is damaged, missing, or illegible, the alloy chain sling shall be removed from service. A replacement sling tag is considered a repair, however additional proof testing is NOT required if the tag is replaced.

Each chain sling shall be marked to show:

- Name or trademark of manufacturer, or if repaired, the entity performing repairs
- Grade
- Nominal chain size
- Number of legs
- Rated load for at least one hitch type and the angle upon which it is based
- Length (reach)
- Individual sling identification (ex: serial number)

Wire Rope Sling Identification Tag Requirements

Wire rope sling identification shall be done by the sling manufacturer, but should be maintained by the user so as to be legible during the life of the sling.

If during the course of a wire rope sling inspection, the user notes that the tag or identification is damaged, missing, or illegible, the wire rope sling shall be removed from service. A replacement sling tag is considered a repair, however additional proof testing is NOT required if the tag is replaced.

Each wire rope sling shall be marked to show:

- Name or trademark of manufacturer, or if repaired, the entity performing repairs
- Rated load for at least one hitch type and the angle upon which it is based
- Diameter or size
- Number of legs, if more than one

Metal Mesh Sling Identification Tag Requirements

Metal mesh sling identification shall be done by the sling manufacturer, but should be maintained by the user so as to be legible during the life of the sling.

If during the course of a metal mesh sling inspection, the user notes that the tag or identification is damaged, missing, or illegible, the metal mesh sling shall be removed from service. A replacement tag is considered a repair, however additional proof testing is NOT required if the tag is replaced.

Each metal mesh sling shall be marked to show:

- Name or trademark of manufacturer, or if repaired, the entity performing repairs
- Rated load for at least one hitch type and the angle upon which it is based
- Individual sling identification (ex: serial number)

Synthetic Rope Sling Identification Tag Requirements

Synthetic rope sling identification shall be done by the sling manufacturer, but should be maintained by the user so as to be legible during the life of the sling.

If during the course of a synthetic rope sling inspection, the user notes that the tag or identification is damaged, missing, or illegible, the synthetic rope sling shall be removed from service. A replacement tag is considered a repair, however additional proof testing is NOT required if the tag is replaced.

Each synthetic rope sling shall be marked to show:

- Name or trademark of manufacturer, or if repaired, the entity performing repairs
- Manufacturer's code or stock number
- Rated loads for at least one hitch type and the angle upon which it is based
- Type of fiber material
- Number of legs, if more than one

Synthetic Web Sling Identification Tag Requirements

Synthetic web sling identification shall be done by the sling manufacturer, but should be maintained by the user so as to be legible during the life of the sling.

If during the course of a synthetic web sling inspection, the user notes that the tag or identification is damaged, missing, or illegible, the synthetic web sling shall be removed from service. A replacement tag is considered a repair, however additional proof testing is NOT required if the tag is replaced.

Each synthetic web sling shall be marked to show:

- Name or trademark of manufacturer, or if repaired, the entity performing repairs
- Manufacturer's code or stock number
- Rated loads for at least one hitch type and the angle upon which it is based
- Type of synthetic web material
- Number of legs, if more than one

Polyester Roundsling Identification Tag Requirements

Roundsling identification shall be done by the manufacturer, but should be maintained by the user as to be legible during the life of the sling.

If during the course of a polyester roundsling inspection, the user notes that the tag or identification is damaged, missing, or illegible, the synthetic roundsling shall be removed from service. A replacement tag is considered a repair, however additional proof testing is NOT required if the tag is replaced.

Each polyester roundsling shall be marked to show:

- Name or trademark of manufacturer, or if repaired, the entity performing repairs
- Manufacturer's code or stock number
- Rated loads for at least one hitch type and the angle upon which it is based
- Core material
- Cover material, if different from core material
- Number of legs, if more than one

High-Performance Roundsling Identification Tag Requirements

High-performance roundsling identification shall be done by the sling manufacturer, but should be maintained by the user so as to be legible during the life of the sling.

If during the course of a high-performance roundsling inspection, the user notes that the tag or identification is damaged, missing, or illegible, the high-performance roundsling shall be removed from service. A replacement tag is considered a repair, however additional proof testing is NOT required if the tag is replaced.

Each high-performance roundsling shall be marked to show:

- Name or trademark of manufacturer, or if repaired, the entity performing repairs
- Manufacturer's code or stock number
- Rated loads for at least one hitch type and the angle upon which it is based
- Core yarn - fiber type(s) or blend
- Cover material, if different from core material
- Number of legs, if more than one

Wrapping It Up

You could argue that a sling identification tag is the most important component of a sling assembly. Without it, you don't have any frame of reference on the rated load and the sling's capabilities in different hitch configurations and at different sling angles.

If you notice that the identification tag on your sling has become damaged, illegible, or is missing entirely, immediately remove the sling from service and quarantine or mark it to discourage further use.

Notify a Qualified person to inspect the sling and make a determination on if it shall be retired, or if it can be repaired and returned to service.

If you have any questions about ASME or OSHA compliance, or are interested in a consultation on the equipment you use for material handling or overhead lifts, contact us today!