

Safety Facts: Rigging*

Rigging is the process of safely attaching a load to a lifting device (e.g., crane). Riggers must do some calculations to determine the weight of the load to lift and the appropriate method to rig that load. To rig a load, a rigger could use ropes, chains, slings, shackles, lifting attachments, etc. Then they would use hand signals to direct the crane operator to move the load. A tag line may be used to control the load while moving to prevent hazardous movement. The load would then be landed.

Why is it important?

To rig a load, you must be a qualified worker or work under the direction of a qualified worker. Qualified means being knowledgeable of the work, the hazards involved and the means to control the hazards, by reasons of education, training, experience, or a combination thereof. There is no formal Red Seal certification for being a rigger.



Associated risks/hazards

The following are some hazards with rigging a load:

- An improperly rigged load may cause a failure in the rigging equipment and thus cause the load to drop
- Failure to rig the load to its centre of gravity may cause the load to fly unlevel, add extra strain to the rigging, and in some cases cause the load to fall out of the rigging
- An improperly rigged load may add strain/force to the load and cause damage to the load
- Hands or fingers can get injured by point points when taking up the strain of the rigging or when landing loads

Preventive next steps

1. Get formal education and training to understand the requirements to rig loads and the proper use of rigging equipment.
2. When rigging loads, become familiar with and follow the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) Part 15: Rigging.

3. Perform a hazard assessment prior to rigging and moving loads.
4. Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment when doing rigging work (e.g., steel toe boots, hard hat, hi-vis apparel, work gloves, safety glasses, etc.)
5. Inspect all rigging equipment prior to using it. OHSR Part 15 provides rejection criteria for wire rope slings, steel chain slings, synthetic web slings, etc.
6. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on the use of any rigging equipment.
7. Use the hand signals as prescribed by OHSR section 15.20 when rigging and moving loads.
8. Never walk under a load that is being lifted.
9. When required, use a tag line to control the hazardous movement of a load.
10. Always have an escape route should a load or crane fail.



For additional resources visit:

[Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Part 15 Rigging](#) | WorkSafe BC

[OHS Answers Fact Sheets Materials Handling](#) | CCOHS (Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety) website

