



Safety Alert

Safe Use of Taglines to Guide Suspended Loads

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The following pages of this safety alert were issued by:

Laing O'Rourke



Rethinking safety through
INCLUSION
+
WELLBEING

SAFETY ALERT

SA 22/04

SAFE USE OF TAGLINES TO GUIDE SUSPENDED LOADS

Recent and historical reports of personnel becoming entangled in taglines and being lifted off the ground by cranes has prompted a review of our standards and processes with regards to the training of personnel and selection of appropriate equipment for lifting operations.

During a recent lifting operation, a slinger had detached the load from the lifting accessories and instructed the crane operator to hoist up. A section of the tagline that had been used to guide the load had looped on the ground and as the hook block ascended, the slinger unknowingly stepped into the loop, became entangled and was lifted off the ground to a height of between 1-2m. The slinger managed to radio the crane operator and they were safely lowered to the ground. No Injuries were incurred.



Note the blue rope tagline naturally coiling on the ground



Note the slinger has stepped into the looped tagline



The shadow shows the slinger suspended off the ground

INITIAL LEARNING IDENTIFIED

- Blue nylon strand rope/draw cord was being used as a tagline which has a natural tendency to coil and snag.
- Proprietary taglines are available through Select Plant Hire and across the wider industry which reduce the risk of coiling and entanglement. However, these are used inconsistently at Laing O'Rourke workplaces.
- The Laing O'Rourke 'Safe Guide to Lifting Operations' and 'Guide to Safe Slings and Signalling' does not clearly define standards for the selection of appropriate taglines.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS FOR PROJECTS & WORKPLACES

With immediate effect, workplace Leaders are to ensure a review of all lifting operations including subcontractors with specific focus on the material used for taglines. Where blue nylon strand rope/draw cord or other non-proprietary material is being utilised, these should be replaced with a proprietary tag line which can be purchased at lifting@selectplanthire.com or through external supply chain. **Note: All non-proprietary taglines must be replaced by 01/11/22.**



Off-shore marine tagline

Assists slingers with improved control for heavy loads due to greater grip and abrasion prevention from the weaved over braided cover. More so, it does not absorb water therefore beneficial for work in the winter months. Tangle and knot resistant.



14mm braided rope tagline

Ideal to secure a lifted load, ranging between 5m-20m with an AZ 029 latch opening 50mm, with swivel. Made from kernmantle – polyester core



Tag Attach Steel Snap Hook/Scaffold Hook

Ideal for general lifting operations Available with a range of connectors and lengths 23KN

Above is a small sample of the dynamic range of taglines and connectors available from the Select Lifting Accessories Department.

WIDER GROUP ACTIONS

The guidance for 'Safe Lifting Operations' and 'Guide to Safe Slings and Signalling' is being revised to incorporate a more specific standard for taglines.

The NOCN Enhanced Slinger Signaller training will also be updated to incorporate the new standard and learning from this most recent event, with specific focus on taglines and methods of communication.

The Health & Safety Team will organise a review of workplaces to ensure compliance with this instruction.

Please ensure the above actions are briefed out to the relevant members of your team as appropriate and are implemented throughout your workplace.