



**OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Material Handling and Storage –
Inspecting Alloy Steel Chain Slings**

[Reference: 1910.184 / 1926.251]

Alloy steel chain slings are used in many different industries for lifting, hoisting, and moving heavy loads. It is crucial for the safety of workers that alloy steel chain slings be inspected regularly to ensure that they remain in good condition and safe to use.

Here is a list of 10 things you should look for before using an alloy steel chain sling:

1. Visually inspect the entire sling assembly before use for any obvious signs of damage, such as cracks, nicks, gouges, or other deformities that could weaken the chain, master link, and coupling links and make them more prone to breaking.
2. Examine the chain and all other components for any rust or corrosion, which can weaken the chain and make it more likely to break.
3. Inspect the chain for signs of twisted or bent links, which could affect the sling's strength and cause it to fail.
4. Inspect the sling carefully for any signs of melting, discoloration, or other damage caused by it being exposed to flames or high heat.
5. Look for any elongation or stretch in the chain links, which can be a sign of fatigue and may indicate that the sling is no longer safe to use.
6. Check hooks and rings on the chain for signs of twisting or stretching due to overloading.
7. Make certain there are no bolts and other make-shift connectors or sub-standard repairs present in the chain sling assembly.
8. Ensure the manufacturer's tag is attached to the sling, and inspect it to make sure the serial number, sling length, and rated capacities for various rigging methods are legible.
9. Also, make sure to follow any specific inspection guidelines provided by the manufacturer of the chain sling.
10. Finally, if you do find a damaged chain sling, immediately take it out of service and tag it out or lock it up so it cannot be used by anyone else.

Does anyone have anything to add to today's discussion on inspecting an alloy steel chain sling?