

# Lifting Equipment: Inspecting and Record Keeping

This guidance note explains the requirements for inspecting and keeping records for lifting equipment.

Lifting equipment includes lifting chains, chain slings, flexible steel wire rope slings, and webbing slings.

## Inspecting your lifting equipment

All lifting equipment must be inspected before it is used, even new equipment. This will help identify any manufacturing faults or damage during transit.

It should also be inspected in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard (see the list below) or manufacturer's specifications: at least every three months, or more frequently if the equipment is subjected to severe working conditions.

Where webbing-style lifting equipment is in frequent service, in addition to the three-monthly inspections, you should have the sling tested at least every 12 months as required by the Australian Standard or manufacturer's specification.

Inspections should be done by a competent person experienced in inspecting lifting equipment.

## Keeping inspection records

You should keep an individual inspection record for each item of lifting equipment you have, for the life of each item. This can be a paper or electronic record.

Individual items of lifting equipment must be readily identified against the record.

If you have more than one of the one type of lifting equipment (for example, three chain slings), you may need to make (non-destructive) markings on them to differentiate between them.

## Keeping a register

You should keep a register of all your items of lifting equipment. This register should include at least:

- a description of the item
- an identification number
- serial number details, working load limits
- where the item is located.

## Relevant Australian Standards

- AS 1353.2 – Flat synthetic-webbing slings – Care and use
- AS 1438.2 – Wire-coil flat slings – Care and use
- AS 1666.2 – Wire-rope slings – Care and use
- AS 3775.2 – Chain slings – Grade T – Care and use

To purchase these standards, go to the SAI Global website at <http://infostore.saiglobal.com> and search for the code numbers given here.

### For more information contact

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