TUFF-ASH® SLING PROTECTION PRODUCTS BULLETIN
INSPECTION, REMOVAL AND OPERATING PRACTICES

WARNING

This bulletin contains important safety information about the use of TUFF-ASH® Sling Protection Products. However, it does not contain all the information you need to know about handling, lifting and manipulating materials and loads safely. Protecting the slings from being damaged during the lift is only one part of a lifting system and it is your responsibility to consider all the risks prior to using any rigging device or product. Failure to follow warnings, removal from service criteria, inspection and operating practices could result in DEATH or INJURY.

*****Warning*** Will cause damage or failure of sling, if misused or damaged. Inspect before and after each use. Inspect for cuts, tears, or damage that may prevent protection of the sling. Be sure protection is the proper size and type to support sling. DEATH or INJURY can occur from improper use or maintenance. Refer to inspection, removal and operating practices.**

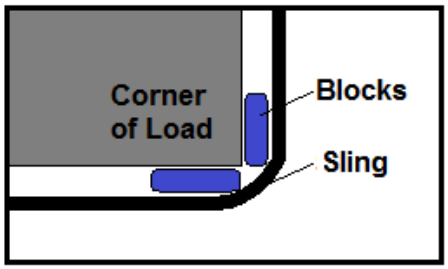
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Safety Standard for Slings (ASME B30.9) states: *"Slings in contact with edges, corners, protrusions, or abrasive surfaces shall be protected with a material of sufficient strength, thickness and construction to prevent damage to the sling"*

INSPECTION

Always inspect sling protection products and rigging before, during and after every lift. All sling protection products should be carefully selected based on the type and weight of the load to be lifted. The size, shape, and type of material, as well as proper alignment are critical for the sling protection to perform properly.

REMOVAL FROM SERVICE CRITERIA

1. Missing or illegible identification and warnings.
2. Acid or alkali burns.
3. Heat damage, melting, charring or weld splatter.
4. Cracked or damaged blocking.
5. Excessive abrasive wear.
6. Holes, tears, cuts and snags.
7. Broken or worn stitching.
8. Embedded particles and debris.
9. Discoloration and brittle or stiff areas which may mean chemical or ultraviolet/sunlight damage.
10. Other conditions, including visible damage, which may cause doubt to the continued use of the product.



Edge Lifter / Figure 1

TUFF-ASH® PROTECTION PRODUCTS

OPERATING PRACTICES

1. All users shall be trained in the selection, use, inspection and cautions to personnel.
2. Select sling protection products with suitable characteristics for the type of load, hitch and environment.
3. Protection products shall be the proper shape, size and material to ensure that the sling(s) and rigging are adequately protected.
4. Edge Lifters are for 90° solid corners. Do not use on I-beams or other structural shapes that do not allow for proper engagement and support of blocks on either side of the 90° edge. Refer to figure 1.
5. A test lift(s) is recommended to ensure the protection product(s) is providing adequate protection. Testing shall be done in a non-consequential set of circumstances. It may be necessary to apply load incrementally. Inspect protection products for damage and suitability in intervals during test(s).
6. Protection products and rigging shall be positioned to prevent slippage or accidental disengagement.
7. Sling and rigging shall be securely attached to their load(s).
8. Do not modify protection products. Modification may result in failure of the product.
9. Slings and rigging shall not be used in excess of their recommended working load limit as prescribed by the manufacturer on a permanently affixed tag.
10. All employees shall keep clear of loads about to be lifted and suspended loads.
11. Shock loading is prohibited.
12. When not in use, protection products and rigging shall be removed from the immediate work area.
13. Protection products should be stored to protect them from mechanical, chemical and environmental damage.
14. Hands or fingers shall not be placed between the sling or protection product while the sling is being tightened around the load or during the lift.
15. Refer to OSHA, ASME and any other standards as they apply. It is not intended, nor shall it be considered, that the information contained herein takes precedence over any regulations and requirements, local, state, federal, OEM or any other ruling body.