



KENTUCKY

AGC Self Insurers' Fund

Rigging Safety

Rigging operations are a critical part of construction work, whether on large commercial job sites or smaller residential projects. The safe use of rigging equipment is essential to protect workers, materials, and property from the serious risks associated with lifting and moving heavy loads. Proper rigging involves more than just hooks and slings—it requires trained personnel, careful planning, thorough inspection, and strict adherence to procedures. Unsafe rigging can result in dropped loads, equipment failure, or fatal injuries. This guidance provides core principles and best practices to ensure rigging is performed safely and in compliance with applicable standards.

Key Principles of Rigging Safety

- **Competent Personnel**
 - All rigging must be performed by qualified riggers with appropriate training.
 - Use a designated signal person when the crane operator's view is obstructed.
- **Pre-Lift Planning**
 - Perform a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) prior to lifting.
 - Identify the load weight, center of gravity, and select appropriate rigging gear.
 - Assess site conditions including ground stability and overhead obstructions.
- **Equipment Inspection**
 - Inspect all rigging gear before each use:
 - Slings (wire rope, synthetic, chain)
 - Shackles, hooks, eyebolts
 - Spreader bars, lifting beams
 - Immediately remove any damaged or questionable gear from service.
- **Proper Rigging Techniques**
 - Maintain proper sling angles to reduce stress on rigging components.
 - Never exceed the rated load capacity of any equipment or attachment point.
 - Ensure the load is balanced and secured before lifting.
 - Use tag lines as needed to guide and stabilize loads.
- **Safe Lifting Practices**
 - Maintain clear communication between riggers and equipment operators.
 - Keep personnel clear of the lift zone at all times.
 - Lift and lower slowly to avoid swinging or shifting loads.
 - Do not leave suspended loads unattended.
- **Regulatory Compliance**
 - Adhere to OSHA regulations:
 - 29 CFR 1926.251 – Rigging equipment for material handling
 - 29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction
 - Always follow manufacturer instructions and load charts.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Plan the lift – Work the plan – Lift safely. For additional guidance or training, consult your Safety Manager or OSHA representative.