

Slings & Signalling

- Slings are a key function during piling operations and you must never become complacent about it.
- All slingers must be at least 18, be trained, competent and authorised.
- **Any** load being lifted should be slung and moved under the supervision of a slinger/signaller.
- All lifting gear should be checked by the slinger prior to use. Lifting gear such as wire ropes which are impractical to check prior to every use should be checked at least once a week.
- All lifting gear should have its Safe Working Load (SWL) marked on it. The slinger must check that it is suitable for the task prior to the lift.
- Always use the correct equipment for the lift. 'Making do' can, and has killed people.



- Loads should be slung and lifted in a manner that avoids causing damage to the lifting equipment.
- Never tie knots in chains or shorten them using nuts and bolts. Get a set of chains that are the appropriate length for the task.
- Make sure pins are properly screwed into shackles and that chains/slugs are correctly fastened to the crane/lifting appliance.
- Always lift the load so it hangs centrally. If it does not, lower it and resling it.
- Make sure the driver can see you when you are giving signals. As a general rule if you can't see the driver he can't see you.
- Always 'test lift' a load by lifting it a small distance before hoisting.
- Use tag lines for long or large loads.
- Keep loads as close to the ground as possible.
- Do not allow persons to 'ride' on loads
- When you have finished with lifting gear make sure it is put away tidily.

Q: How old must you be to be a slinger/ signaller?

Q: What should all lifting gear have marked on it?

Q: If you can't see the driver, what can't he see?