



BANKSMEN/SLINGERS

This TBT is not intended to replace proper training of banksmen/slingers. It should serve only as a reminder to persons who have already been trained or as general information for persons not directly involved.

1. Numerous accidents with cranes are caused by poor slinging, overloading and unbalanced loads.
2. The crane driver is usually entirely reliant upon the banksmen/slinger for the security of his load.
3. Banksmen/slingers must be trained and authorised.
4. Lifting gear must be checked daily. Examine webbing slings for cuts and chafing and wire ropes for kinks, frays and projecting needles.
5. Explain any colour-coding or similar system which may be in use on your site.
6. Use only lifting gear provided by your employer. It must have the correct SWL (safe working load). Do not use improvised slings.
7. Only use slings, shackles, chains, hoists, and other lifting equipment which is within its 12 month period of formal inspection, as per the requirement of LOLER (lifting operations and lifting equipment Regulations). Equipment which falls into this category will often have a colour coded sticker to indicate this.
8. Do not use a single leg of a double or multiple leg sling.



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9. Lifting gear must not be used unless it's safe working load is marked. The combined weight of load to be lifted and lifting gear must never exceed the safe working load of the crane.
 10. Loads must be landed onto suitable bearers to avoid damage to lifting gear and to facilitate removal.
 11. Never tie knots in chains to shorten them.
 12. Make sure the correct pins are used in shackles and that pins are properly screwed home.
 13. All hooks must be either approved 'C' hooks, or fitted with effective safety catches.
 14. Protect wire ropes and slings with soft wood or other suitable packaging from the sharp edges of the load.
 15. Always ensure the crane hook is centrally positioned over the load to prevent it swinging when it is raised.
 16. Take hands away and stand clear before giving the signal to lift.
 17. Ensure that one person only gives signals to the crane driver.
 18. Ensure that the load is floated clear of the ground to ensure it is free and correctly slung before hoisting.
 19. Wear a safety helmet and hi-vis clothing.
 20. Make signals clearly and distinctively and always use the approved signals.



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21. When the crane is operating, do not leave the area unless you are relieved by an authorised deputy.
 22. When the crane is travelling, ensure that the driver can see you, and warn in good time of obstructions en-route.
 23. Riding on loads is strictly prohibited.
 24. Backsling hooks that are not in use.
 25. Do not allow lifting gear to be used for other purposes, such as towing.
 26. When not in use, store lifting gear tidily off the ground.
 27. Keep all persons not involved away from the operation.
 28. Take particular care when working in the street or other public places.
 29. Report any defect in any equipment or system of work without delay, and do not use the equipment.