

LIFTING EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

How Often & By Whom Should Lifting Gear Be Inspected?

The safety of those using lifting and rigging equipment is of utmost importance, and employers and worksites must ensure they are adhering to regulations when it comes to inspecting and maintaining such equipment.

A wide selection of lifting equipment is available today, including chain slings, wire rope slings, wire rope terminations, shackles, chain blocks, lever hoists and synthetic slings. Simply trusting that a device meets Australian Standards is not sufficient - manufacturers can be located anywhere in the world and must comply with different laws.

At SureAccess, we can inspect lifting equipment to ensure it not only meets the product's requirements, but also complies with the relevant Australian Standards and safety regulations.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRING INSPECTION

Any gear used to lift, rig or secure a load, and any equipment used to protect people working at height, needs to be inspected and recorded. This includes:

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| 1 Chain slings and chain assemblies | 7 Lifting beams and spreader beams |
| 2 Wire rope slings and terminations | 8 Concrete clutches |
| 3 Synthetic slings (flat and round) | 9 Monorail and gantry systems |
| 4 Shackles, hooks and eye bolts | 10 Safety harnesses and energy absorbing lanyards |
| 5 Chain blocks, lever hoists and air hoists | 11 Fall arrestors (SRLs) and lifelines |
| 6 Winches | 12 Anchors |

Cranes, forklifts, elevating work platforms and other mobile plant have their own inspection requirements and are outside the scope of this guide.

WHO SHOULD INSPECT LIFTING EQUIPMENT?

As stated in Australian Standard AS 2550.1-2020, a 'competent person' is required to inspect lifting equipment, and records must be kept of these inspections.

Under the Standard, a 'competent person' is someone who, through training, experience, and knowledge, is capable of:

- Identifying existing and potential risks, hazards, and non-compliances with applicable standards and regulations
- Evaluating the safety of the equipment
- Developing inspection plans and procedures
- Providing advice on preventive and corrective maintenance

Lifting equipment inspections also require a detailed evaluation of the equipment, its components and safety features.

At SureAccess, our inspectors can inspect all forms of under-the-hook lifting, rigging, and height safety equipment at your site anywhere in Mackay and the Bowen Basin. Every inspection is documented, and we can supply an equipment register template so you can keep your own records up to date.

HOW FREQUENTLY DOES LIFTING EQUIPMENT NEED TO BE INSPECTED?

Depending on the type of gear and frequency of use, inspections may need to be carried out more regularly than others. For example, slings made of synthetic fibres may need more frequent examination than other types. Additionally, any repairs or modifications to gear must be followed by a proof load test.

The Australian Standards discuss two distinct types of inspection: in-service and periodic.

In-Service Inspections

An in-service inspection is a visual assessment of the equipment prior to each lift. The user looks for any wear or damage and verifies that the weight limit tag is visible and legible. If any defects are observed, the equipment should be removed from service and inspected by a qualified individual to determine if it can be used, repaired, or discarded.

Periodic Equipment Inspections

A periodic inspection is a more thorough examination of the equipment. The equipment must be cleaned and inspected in a well-lit area by a trained inspector with proven good vision. These inspections must also be properly recorded.

Factors to Consider

When determining how often to inspect an item, consider the following:

- The amount of use the equipment receives
- The intensity of the job (i.e. whether it is being used to its full capacity consistently)
- Working conditions, such as contaminated or corrosive environments
- Equipment type - slings made from synthetic fibres and wire rope slings with soft eyes tend to suffer from quicker wear and tear, requiring more frequent inspection

INSPECTION FREQUENCY GUIDELINES

The following table summarises the recommended inspection frequencies for lifting and height safety equipment in accordance with relevant Australian Standards.

Equipment Type	Standard	Inspection Frequency
Soft Slings / FWS	AS 1353.2	3-monthly by a competent person
Round Slings	AS 4497.1	3-monthly by a competent person
Flat Slings	AS 1353.1	3-monthly by a competent person
Chain Assemblies (T80/V100)	AS 3775.2	See table below
Lashing Chain	AS 4344	Regular inspection by the user
Wire Rope Assemblies	AS 1666	12-monthly (subject to usage)
Concrete Clutches	AS 3850.1	12-monthly proof load at 1.2× WLL; inspect before each use
Lifting Beams	AS 4991	As specified by manufacturer; SureAccess recommends 12-monthly

Equipment Type	Standard	Inspection Frequency
Monorail / Gantry	AS 1418.3	≤2 years initially (first 6 years), then 12-monthly
Safety Harnesses	AS 1891.1:2020	Before/after each use + 6-monthly by certified inspector
Energy Absorbing Lanyards	AS 1891.5:2020	Before/after each use + 6-monthly by certified inspector
Lifelines – Webbing/Fibre Rope	—	Before/after each use + 6-monthly by certified inspector
Lifelines – Steel Rope/Rail	—	Yearly (max 5 years) per manufacturer; 12-monthly if no recommendation
Anchors (no nut)	—	Yearly proof load: 15 kN (1 person) / 21 kN (2 persons); must be documented
Anchors (nut secured)	—	Structural testing or engineer certification in lieu of proof load
Type 2 Fall Arrestors (SRLs)	AS 1891.3:2020	6-monthly documented inspection; service per manufacturer (max 5 years or 12-monthly)
Type 3 Fall Arrestors	AS 1891.3:2020	As per AS 1891.3:2020 requirements

Chain Assembly Inspection Schedule (Alloy Chain Slings T80 & V100)

For alloy chain slings, use the following table to determine inspection frequency based on the number of lifts per week:

LIFTS PER WEEK	Monthly	3 Monthly	6 Monthly	Yearly
1 – 5	—	—	—	Yes
6 – 25	—	—	Yes	—
26 – 200	—	Yes	—	—
201+	Yes	—	—	—

Need a rigging equipment register template or an inspection?

Email info@sureaccess.com.au or call **0498 131 997**. For further information, visit www.sureaccess.com.au