**GENERAL PERIODIC SLING INSPECTION PROTOCOL**

The inspection should be performed by a person who is suitable, has good experience and sufficient knowledge about design, use and maintenance of the sling.

**Sling Information**

Model of sling: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Product No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Serial No./other individual marking: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Year of production: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Year commenced usage: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sling Location: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Check points:** | **Approved** | **To be actioned** | **Not approved** | **N/A** | **Comments** |
| Product label readable |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fabric not worn or torn |  |  |  |  |  |
| Edging intact |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strap loops/support straps/suspension straps not worn or threads loose |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loop straps |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leg support loops |  |  |  |  |  |
| Handles/guide loops |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seams |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reinforcement seams (bartacks) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shortening position |  |  |  |  |  |
| Buckles |  |  |  |  |  |
| Laths |  |  |  |  |  |
| Documentation |  |  |  |  |  |

**Approval to use the product\*:**

Approved To be actioned Not approved

\*If the product has one or more check points with the result “not approved” the product should be withdrawn from use immediately. If the product has one or more check points with the result “to be actioned” these actions should be performed immediately and prior to further use. Form should not be signed until action completed. Inspection label on sling should also then be completed.

Inspection performed by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Final approval by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Approval date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Next inspection: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SLING INSPECTION PROTOCOLS**

The periodic inspection of the sling should take place within the time interval recommended by the manufacturer, but at least every 6 months.

If the sling is used and/or washed more than customary, more frequent inspections may be needed.

The inspection should be performed by a person who is suitable, has good experience and sufficient knowledge about design, use and maintenance of the sling.

Critical parts of the sling are the edgings, seams and fabric.

Life of the sling can be shortened:

1. if laundered incorrectly e.g.

* Too hot
* With bleach – or other unsuitable chemicals
* Laths left during laundry
* Washing machine too full (mechanical wear)
* Tumble dry over 50 degrees
* Dryer too full (mechanical wear)

1. Handling error

* Lifting in the handles
* Getting stuck (wheelchair, bed, sling bar)

But also

1. Wear from the sling bar
2. High usage frequency
3. High load

Inspection checklists/protocols should be retained in case an accident occurs.

Inspections should contain the following information:

* Date
* Identification information and serial number
* The condition of the sling
* Date of next inspection
* Signature of the person who performed the inspection

1. Product label

Check that

* Maximum load
* Product name
* Product number
* Serial number
* Year of manufacture
* Laundry instructions

are legible on the product label.

If a new label is required – ensure product number and serial number are present to ensure right maximum load of sling is known. Sew new label preferably onto the edging with synthetic thread. Avoid a leather needle and be careful if sewing onto fabric.

1. Fabric

Check that:

* Fabric has no holes, is not thin or worn (hold up to a window or light source)
* No wear of holes in the fabric has occurred along the border
* Fabric under the handles is intact/undamaged

1. Edging

Check that the edging is not damaged

1. Strap loops
2. Leg support loops

Check that the straps have not been damaged by the sling bar. Look for broken threads

1. Handles

Check that the seams on the handles are intact/undamaged

If the seam is torn but the fabric is undamaged, a new seam can be sewn using synthetic thread but no leather needle.

1. Seams

Check that threads and seams are intact.

1. Reinforcement seams (bartacks)
2. Shortening Position

If the shortening position has damaged seams and a shortening of the leg support loop is desired, a knot can be tied in the loop. This will make the leg support loop approximately 10cm shorter.

1. Buckle

Check the function of the belt buckle by closing it and then pulling on the belt to ensure that the buckle does not open. If the buckle opens, the assessment would be “not approved” or “to be actioned”.

1. Laths

If the sling is not completely functioning due to missing laths, they can be replaced.

1. Documentation

Check that the current instruction guide is available. If not available go back to the supplier for another copy.