

Periodic Sling Inspection Checklist

Sling inspection procedures should be thorough, systematic and consistent. The following inspection points are required as per manufacturers' instructions:









- **Safe Patient Handling Pre-Use Visual Inspection** – prior to every care task using slings and equipment, etc.
- Periodic inspection of lifting slings - should be carried out within the time interval recommended by the manufacturer, but at least every 6 months.

If the lifting sling is used and/or laundered more than customary or there are other sling issues, more frequent inspections will be necessary.

- This document includes:
- Page 1: Template for documenting sling inspections
 - Pages 2-3: Detailed [inspection criteria](#)
 - Page 4: [Sling inventory form](#)
 - Page 5: [Label Information](#) for manufacturer label content requirements, site identification labels, [process for faded labels](#)

Facility Name:				Unit:											P = Pass F = Fail R = Replace ASAP				
Completed by:				Date of Inspection:															
Refer to site/unit sling inventory to ensure all slings are inspected regularly				Physical Damage (indicate P or F for each criteria)							Structural Integrity & Label Check (indicate P or F for each criteria)								
Manufacturer name & serial #	Sling size	Sling description (model / type)	Date put into service	Loop or clip	Attachments	Stitching (seams)	Stitching - strap connections	Stitching (trim)	Fabric/body	Head supports	Bleach damage	Heat damage	Stain check	Label check-present	Label legible	Label – indicates make/model/size, weight limit, serial #	Pass/ Fail/ Replace		
Handicare 123 456	M	Universal quilted	Nov 1/16	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	F	F	F		

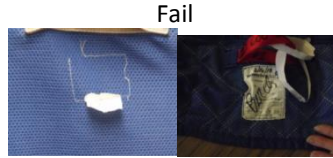
Sling Inspection Criteria

Check	Inspection Description	Issue / Implications
<u>Attachments Check</u>	<p>Check all loops/clips at their connection/stress points. If there is any sign of deterioration of the attachment points, the check must be documented as F for “fail”; otherwise document as P for “pass”. See examples:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Pass</p>  <p>Stitching intact</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Fail</p>  <p>Signs of fraying and bleach damage at connection</p> </div> </div>	<p>Any physical damage to attachment points represents an imminent structural failure and a serious safety issue.</p>
<u>Stitching Check</u>	<p>The critical areas to inspect are the strap attachment points as indicated in the attachments check and any sewn /threaded material seams within the body of the sling. Look for any fraying or loose stitching in these areas and the trim. If there is any sign of deterioration of the stitching at attachment points or at any sewn /threaded material seams, the check must be documented as F for “fail”; otherwise document as P for “pass”.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Pass</p>  <p>No broken, frayed or loose stitches</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Fail</p>  <p>Broken, missing stitching</p> </div> </div>	<p>Any physical damage to stitching represents an imminent structural failure and a serious safety issue.</p>
<u>Body / Fabric Check</u>	<p>If there is any sign of rips, holes or deterioration of the sling body material in any way, the check must be documented as F for “fail”; otherwise document as P for “pass”. See examples:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Pass</p>  <p>No holes, rips</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Fail</p>  <p>Hole in body of sling</p> </div> </div>	<p>Any physical damage to the body / fabric of the sling represents an imminent structural failure and a serious safety issue.</p>
<u>Head Support Stiffeners Check</u>	<p>If the sling has pockets for head support stiffeners and they are missing, then you must remove the sling from service until the stays can be located.</p>	<p>Head support stiffeners are an integral part of this type of sling structure. Using a sling without head supports is a serious safety issue.</p>
<u>Bleach Damage Check</u>	<p>Check for legibility of the sling label and extreme fading in the body fabric or trim colour. Completely blank or missing labels indicate frequent use and/or laundering with exposure to bleach. If bleach damage is evident, the check must be documented as F for “fail”; otherwise document as P for “pass”. See examples:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Pass</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Fail</p>  </div> </div>	<p>Bleach is known to prematurely deteriorate the structural sling materials and therefore its integrity is unknown representing a potential safety issue.</p>

<u>Heat Damage Check</u>	<p>Heat damage may be detected as an overall shrinking of the sling or identified by a shrinking or scrunching of the leg portion. Additionally, heat damage may be found in other areas by a brittle or ridged/stiff feel to the fabric. If heat damage is evident, the check must be documented as F for “fail”; otherwise document as P for “pass”.</p>	<p>Heat damage may cause shrinking, unknown damage to structural materials and issues with patient comfort / skin damage representing a potential safety issue.</p>
<u>Stain Check</u>	<p>Staining may occur through use by an incontinent patient or exposure to chemicals. If there is any suspicion that staining <u>is not</u> a result of incontinence then this is an indication of unapproved chemicals in the laundering process. If non-incontinence related staining is evident, the check must be documented as F for “fail”; otherwise document as P for “pass”. See examples:</p>	<p>Unapproved chemicals are known to prematurely deteriorate the structural sling materials and therefore its integrity is unknown representing a potential safety issue.</p>
<u>Manufacturer Label Check</u>	<p>Ensure the label is still legible; particularly serial #, sling type, size and Working Load Limit (WLL). If a blank/missing label is identified, immediately remove the sling from service following site process. If the manufacturer label is faded but legible continue with the <u>physical</u> and <u>structural integrity</u> inspection as above. If a sling passes the integrity inspection, the required label information may be re-applied following the labeling requirements and the site/unit process. See examples:</p>	<p>Could lead to using the improper sling for the patient or the improper sling for the equipment and this represents a potential safety issue.</p>
<u>Buckle and Clip Check</u>	<p><u>Clips:</u> For clip style slings, inspect the cold shut line which is the most vulnerable to damage caused by laundry processes. If there is any sign of deterioration of the attachment points the clip fails inspection. Refer to manufacturer’s guidelines for further information on sling clips.</p> <p><u>Buckles:</u> Ensure both ends of buckles are present and are not cracked or broken.</p> <p>If the sling buckles and/or clips do not pass the safety check, document as F for “fail”; otherwise document as P for “pass”. See examples:</p>	<p>If a clip’s mechanical resistance does not pass the check according to the sling clip gauge, this is an indicator of excessive use and therefore represents a sling that is beyond its useful life.</p>



1) ID label present; 2) ID label present and label info re-applied



1) ID label absent; 2) ID label torn



1) Both ends of buckle present/intact;



2) Clip intact.

Sling Inventory Form

Site & Unit:		A sling inventory must be kept on all units. Add any new slings received to inventory list					
Manufacturer	Serial Number	Model/Type	Style	Size	Date manufactured	Date put into service	Comments
Prism	123 456	Universal	padded	L	18/01/2017	16/03/2017	In use
Prism	789 101	Universal	quilted	S	22/11/2016	30/11/2016	Failed inspection. Removed from service.

Labeling Requirements

Manufacturer Label:

- **MUST** be present, legible and intact. **Promptly remove any sling from service if it does not meet the manufacturer labeling requirements – slings with missing/illegible label must be discarded and replaced.** Follow site process for removing slings from service.
- For slings with faded but **still legible label** and PASS the physical and structural integrity inspection criteria, re-apply the required manufacturer label information – see [process for faded manufacturer label](#) below. Always follow site/unit process for re-applying manufacturer label information. Manufacturer labels must contain the following information:

Sample Label:	Example:
Manufacturer Name & serial # working load limit type/style size	Prism / 123456 800 lbs universal - quilted medium

Standardized Site Identification Label:

For sites using central laundry (Ecotex):

Ecotex **WILL** apply site identification labels to facilitate return of slings to the appropriate site. See "[Standardized Site Identification Label Attachment](#)" picture below.

- **Process for NEW slings:** All new slings shall be received by the ordering facility then sent to Ecotex for standardized site identification label attachment.
- **Process for EXISTING slings:** Ecotex will apply a standardized site identification label as slings are processed through laundry (i.e. non-standardized site identification labels will be replaced with new standardized label). *Note: Slings that arrive with no site identifier will be labeled for, and returned to, the highest use site.*

For sites laundering slings in-house:

- If desired, *blank* site identification labels can be ordered through Ecotex for a nominal fee and applied in-house (i.e. using volunteer seamstress). Blank labels can be used to write on unit identifier and/or the required manufacturer's label information if label fading is indicated. Alternatively, the required information may be written directly on the sling using a laundry marker.



Standardized Site Identification Label Attachment:

- Finished size = 1" X 5"
- 3 letter site identifier – embroidered
- Attached at non-lifting point
- Label is looped through and triple stitched back onto itself (NOT sewn to lift strap)
- Stitched all around outer edge of the label so user cannot use the label as a handle

Process for faded manufacturer's label:

- Empty space on front and back to write-on required manufacturer's label content if label shows signs of fading. It is also permissible to write directly on the sling – DO NOT cover up a still legible manufacturer label.
- Use a laundry marker to write on the manufacturer, serial number, working load limit, type/style and size as indicated in example above.
 - **These markings must be maintained at the site level as part of the inspection process (i.e. refresh writing when needed following site process). If the writing becomes illegible the sling MUST be removed from service.**

Note: Attachment of secondary labels must comply with manufacturer's specifications. The IH standardized label attachment meets these requirements.

Note: When writing on labels or slings use a LAUNDRY MARKER.