

**YOUR LES®****QUICK GUIDE****TO**

# CHAIN SLINGS



## IN A NUTSHELL

Chain Slings and Lifting Chains can generally be used in a variety of different configurations to create a single, double, three, or four leg versions to increase the capacity of an assembly.

They are also manufactured in different grades and material types, which determine their strength, durability, and suitability for specific lifting applications.

For example, Grade 6 stainless steel chain slings are highly resistant to corrosion and are most commonly used in marine and food-processing environments. While higher grades such as Grade 80 (also known as Grade 8) provide superior strength and wear resistance, and suit heavy duty lifting in construction and other industrial operations.

Chain slings and lifting chains are also available with a variety of fittings and end components such as hooks, master links, and shortening clutches, allowing them to be customised for specific lifting tasks.

The flexibility of these configurations ensures that loads of different shapes and sizes can be lifted safely and securely.

Regular inspection and maintenance are essential to ensure continued performance and safety, wear stretching, or damage can reduce the chains load bearing capacity.

Additionally, proper training in the use of chain slings is critical to prevent accidents and ensure compliance with industry standards and safety regulations during lifting operations.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Choosing the right types of slings for your job requires careful consideration of many factors to ensure safety and efficiency. Each type has its own strengths and knowing which one is right for your situation makes all the difference:
- Load capacity (Working Load Limit – WLL): Ensure the sling can safely handle the maximum weight of the load you're lifting.
- Type of load: Consider the shape, fragility and any sharp edges on the load, which may require a specific material or protective sleeves.
- Environmental conditions: Consider temperature, moisture, chemicals and UV exposure, as these elements may affect sling performance.
- Frequency of use: Heavy, repetitive lifting may require more robust and long-lasting sling types.
- Safety standards and compliance: Ensure your slings meet all relevant industry regulations (e.g., LOLER, OSHA) for a safe operation.
- Ease of inspection and maintenance: Choose slings that are easy to check for wear, damage or stretching.
- Attachment and lifting method: Match the sling design to the lifting equipment (e.g., hooks, shackles, hoists).

---

“ Higher grades provide superior strength and wear resistance ”

---

## COMPLIANCE IN THE UK & EUROPE

Compliance with recognised standards is vital to ensure the safe and effective use of chain slings. In the UK and across Europe, chain slings must conform to BS EN 818 and BS EN 1677, which govern the design, manufacture, testing, and safe use of lifting chains and components. Under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998 and PUWER 1998, employers are legally required to ensure lifting equipment is suitable, maintained, and thoroughly examined by a competent person at regular intervals.

Each sling must display a durable identification tag showing the Working Load Limit (WLL), grade, size, and manufacturer details. Regular visual checks and periodic examinations help detect wear, stretching, cracks, or corrosion. Accurate record keeping and training are essential to maintain compliance, ensure operator safety, and uphold best practice.

Chain slings in the UK and EU must also carry CE or UKCA marking, confirming conformity with the Machinery Directive (2006/42/EC) or relevant UK legislation. These markings indicate the product has undergone testing and meets strict safety criteria. Both manufacturers and users must ensure all components are compatible and compliant. Proper storage and handling are equally important - chains should be kept clean, dry, and free from contaminants. Ongoing training reinforces safe practices and inspection routines.

By maintaining compliance through correct certification and documentation, businesses can reduce accidents, extend equipment life, and demonstrate a strong commitment to safety in lifting operations.

## INSPECTION

Regular inspection of chain slings is essential to ensure ongoing safety and compliance with lifting regulations. Before each use, a competent person should conduct a visual check to identify any signs of wear, stretching, cracking, deformation, or corrosion. Particular attention should be paid to links, hooks, master rings, and connecting components, as these areas experience the greatest stress during lifting operations. If any component shows excessive wear, elongation beyond 5%, deep nicks, or distortion, the sling should be removed from service immediately. Periodic thorough examinations should also be carried out at intervals not exceeding six months for frequently used equipment, or more often in harsh environments.

All inspections must be documented, recording the date, inspector, condition, and any corrective action taken. Only qualified personnel should conduct these assessments in accordance with LOLER 1998 and BS EN 818 standards. Maintaining accurate inspection records supports compliance, ensures operational safety, and prolongs the working life of the equipment by enabling timely maintenance or replacement of worn components.

## OUR MOST POPULAR CHAIN SLINGS



**COBRA PLUS GRADE  
10 3 LEG – 3 TONNE**

From £72.22

[READ MORE](#)



**GRADE 80 7MM 2 LEG  
– 2.12 TONNE**

From £129.77

[READ MORE](#)



**PREMIUM GRADE 8  
7MM 4 LEG – 3.15  
TONNE**

From £2811.36

[READ MORE](#)

## STORAGE

Proper storage of chain slings is vital to maintain their strength and extend service life. Slings should be stored in a clean, dry, and well-ventilated area, away from moisture, chemicals, and direct sunlight. Always hang chains on designated racks or supports to prevent tangling, kinking, or contact with sharp edges. Avoid leaving them on the floor or in areas where they may be damaged by vehicles or contaminated by oil or debris. After each use, clean slings to remove dirt or grease and apply a light lubricant if required to prevent corrosion. Stainless steel slings need less maintenance but should still be checked for pitting or contamination. Store slings by size and configuration for easy identification, and clearly label any damaged or out-of-service equipment. Consistent care and proper storage ensure chain slings remain safe, reliable, and ready for immediate use in lifting operations.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Prices are subject to change since the time of guide creation