

## **GUIDANCE FOR SAFE USE OF SHACKLES FOR LIFTING**

1. The user is obliged to keep a valid Test Certificate for any shackle being used in a lifting operation.
2. Before use each shackle should be inspected to ensure that:
  - all markings in the body and the pin of the shackle are readable and in compliance with the relevant Test Certificate.
  - the shackle pin is of the correct type.
  - the body and pin shall not be disturbed or unduly worn.
  - The body and pin are free from nicks, cracks, grooves and corrosion.

If there is any doubt with regards to the above criteria being met, the shackle should not be used for a lifting operation.

3. It is important to ensure that the pin is safely locked after assembly.  
For repeated lifting between inspection of the gear, it is recommended to use a safety bolt type shackle with nut and splitpin – the user must then make sure that the splitpin ensure appropriate safety against unscrewing the nut.
4. Incorrect seating of a pin may be due to a bent pin, damaged threads or misalignment of the holes. Do not use the shackle under these circumstances, but refer the matter to a competent person (i.e. dealer, manufacturer)
5. Shackles should be fitted to the load in a manner that allows the shackle body to take the load in a true line along its centreline to avoid undue bending stresses which will reduce the load capacity of the shackle.  
When using shackles in conjunction with multi – leg slings, due consideration should be given to the effect of the angle between the sling legs.  
When a shackle is used to secure the top block of a set of rope blocks the load on this shackle is increased by the value of the hoisting effect.
6. To avoid eccentric loading of the shackle it is recommended to distribute the load as far as possible over the total length of the pin or to use loose spacers. Never try to reduce the inside width of a shackle by pressing on the shackle eyes or welding
7. washers / spacers to the inside of the eyes – such action makes the Test Certificate invalid.