

# TAGLINE SAFETY GUIDANCE

Safe use of a tagline in the crane industry.



## WHEN SHOULD A TAGLINE BE USED?

A tag line is used to counteract any unintended or uncontrolled movement of a freely suspended load. These movements can be caused by wind or by the lifting and moving process. Should these factors be present, a tagline can be used to mitigate the risk.

### Types of taglines

Sometimes called a guideline or a guide rope

A tag line should be minimum 16mm in diameter, made from clean, dry polypropylene rope.

A tag line should always be attached prior to lift and fixed securely to the load.

Examples of tagline connections:



Bowline: a common tagline knot



Clip termination on a tagline

### A tagline is used:

- ✓ To assist in controlling a swinging load
- ✓ Where it is not possible to control the load with your hands
- ✓ Where a safe distance is required between you and the load
- ✓ To assist in the positioning of a load

### Unsafe tagline use:

- ✗ Using the tagline to support the load
- ✗ Truck straps should not be used as a tag line as they are not designed for this activity and can be unsafe

**FOR LIFTING  
PROFESSIONALS.**

# TAGLINE SAFETY GUIDANCE



**Training** should be provided  
on the selection of taglines  
and their proper use

Don't assume everyone knows how to use a tagline correctly;  
lack of knowledge and haste often lead to incidents and accidents.

## KEY TAGLINE SAFETY TIPS:

- Tag lines are most effective in a horizontal pulling position
- Use the rodeo clinch to hold line so it can easily come free from your hand if needed
- Consider using more than one tag line to achieve greater control
- NEVER wrap a tag line around any part of your body
- Ensure the travel path is clear and free from trip hazards prior to lifting the load
- Make sure the tag line is the correct length and not too short
- Wear gloves when handling the tagline
- When guiding the load, always remain clearly visible to the crane operator OR the spotter – if not possible then remain in direct radio contact with the operator
- Always have the load going forwards/away from you – never walk backwards
- Ensure no loops or knots form in the tagline, if it does loop – don't step inside it
- Consider the wind conditions (shape of load) and when clear of surroundings
- Use a hook to retrieve a suspended tagline to avoid having to stand under the load
- Discuss hand-over protocols to avoid any confusion, dropped lines and snagging

Tag lines are not always necessary; use them only when load control is required due to load configuration or weather. Avoid using tag lines if they create additional hazards.