



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



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Rigging is Rigging

In today's work environment, we use a wide range of mechanical means to lift and move materials: cranes, forklifts, telehandlers, hoists, and other equipment. While the equipment may change, one critical fact remains the same:

Rigging is still rigging.

No matter what machine is doing the lifting, the task of securing, balancing, and controlling a load carries the same fundamental risks. Treating rigging differently based on the equipment used can lead to complacency, and that's when incidents occur.

Key Risks Associated with All Rigging Activities:

- **Dropped Loads:** Improper sling selection, damaged rigging, or incorrect attachment points can result in load failure.
- **Struck-By Hazards:** Workers in the line of fire risk serious injury if a load shifts or falls.
- **Load Instability:** Poor load balance or inadequate securing can cause sudden movement during lifting or transport.
- **Equipment Overload:** Even when using powered equipment, exceeding rated capacities can lead to catastrophic failure.
- **Pinch Points & Hand Injuries:** Hands placed on or near the load can be caught between the load and another surface during movement.

Hands Off the Load – Always

A common but dangerous habit is guiding or steadying a load with your hands while it is being lifted or moved. This exposes you directly to pinch points, crush injuries, and sudden load shifts.

- Never place hands on a suspended or moving load
- Use tag lines or push sticks to control load movement from a safe distance
- Keep your body out of the line of fire at all times
- If the load needs repositioning, stop the lift before making adjustments

Common Misconception:

There is a tendency to view tasks involving forklifts or other mobile equipment as "less hazardous" than traditional crane lifts. This is incorrect. If rigging is involved - slings, chains, chokers, or attachment points, the same level of planning, inspection, and control is required.

Bottom Line:

Changing the machine does not change the risk. Whether lifting with a crane, forklift, or any other device, rigging must always be treated as a high-risk activity requiring full attention, proper planning, and strict adherence to safety procedures.

If it involves rigging, it deserves your full respect. **Hands off. Stay clear. Stay safe.**

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment.

SAFETY ALERT

