

# SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

## Tie Down Straps

Ratchet straps are used to secure and tie down loads during transport. Straps are lightweight and are mostly made of polyester. Their fabric allows them to be resistant to abrasion and be minimally stretchable. They are also created to withstand any damage from basic chemicals as well as ultraviolet rays.

### Inspecting Straps

Inspecting tow down straps is recommended to be done regularly. It is highly advisable to perform an initial inspection prior to using the strap. Periodic inspections need to be done according to how often straps are used, as well as the intensity of conditions the straps are subjected to.

A tie-down strap needs to be inspected for the following signs of wear and tear:

- Knots, tears, holes
- Broken stitches in the patterns
- Areas where weld splatter, charring or melting are present
- Damage resulting from ultraviolet rays where strap color appears bleached or stiffness is present on the webbing
- Tiny particles are present and are deeply embedded in the webbing
- Areas where burning has occurred due to chemicals caused by alkali or acid
- Corrosion, pits, cracks seen on ratchets, hooks, cam buckles or fittings
- Patterns of wear that are unusual for the webbing

### Using Tie-Down Straps

- Straps must be properly used according to their rated capacities. Angles between the attachment and load have an impact on the number of pounds a strap can hold. Specific standards exist on the exact number of straps to be used for particular loads as well as how these need to be attached to the truck.
- Draping straps over the load must also be properly done. Straps must not be strung over sharp edges or corners. Wood cushions, rubber, the fabric can be used to further protect the load as well as the straps.
- Straps must also be removed with care. They must not be pulled from under the loads as doing so will cause the straps to fray. Straps must be rolled up while they are being removed. Doing so keeps the strap from absorbing water or dirt.
- Damaged straps must not be used in any way, manner or form. Stay on the safe side and replace the strap the instance you see it is damaged. Do not fix a broken strap by tying it together. It is almost impossible to know the strength lost from a damaged strap.
- Tie-down straps must not be used for suspending, towing, lowering or lifting cargo.

All in all, whichever purpose it is used for, it is essential that tie-down straps be observed for twists, elongations, and stretched links. Being aware of the broken ratcheting mechanism is critical as these must also be inspected. It is therefore important that such equipment must be stored in a dry place. Though straps made of synthetic fabric do not rust, these can collect mildew and unwanted growths. Storing these in leak-resistant boxes keeps them dry. They also help avoid the dangerous ultraviolet rays of the sun.