

TIN 022

The Use of Tag Lines with Tower Cranes

Tag lines are ropes attached to a load, with the free end held by personnel on the ground to provide control and minimize swing of the load during lifting operations. They are very useful in controlling the rotation of long loads and are particularly helpful where lateral and overhead clearances are tight.



Tag lines should, however, be used with caution. Their use should be considered as part of the planning of the lift to avoid creating additional hazards. Particular attention should be paid to the following:-

- The path to be taken by the load should be surveyed to ensure that taglines cannot become snagged on the permanent structure, scaffolding or other plant or equipment;
- The tag lines must be long enough to allow the load to be controlled throughout its path;
- The tag lines must be inspected before use to ensure that they are undamaged and do not contain knots or loops etc.;
- Tag lines must never be “tied off” to any machine equipment or structure;
- Tag lines must not have anything attached to their ends;
- Persons guiding the load using tag lines should take care that they do not impart undesirable motion to the load or pull the load out of balance;
- Persons guiding the load using long tag lines should ensure that any spare line does not become entangled with anything, including their own feet;



- When erecting or dismantling tower cranes:-
 - Two tag lines should be used when lifting a tower crane jib. These lines should be attached as close as possible to the ends of the jib to give maximum control;
 - Tag lines should always be controlled by persons other than the slinger/signaller. The person controlling a tag line will often require two hands and may be out of the line-of-sight of the crane operator, preventing them from giving either effective hand or radio signals;
 - Extra care must be taken when lifting long tower crane jibs that the end of the jib does not come into contact with the boom of the mobile crane, damaging control cables and immobilising the mobile crane.