

# ***Instructions for the use of: Rigging Screws & Turnbuckles***

The information in this leaflet must be passed to the user of the equipment, who must be suitably trained in the use of this equipment

This document is issued in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, amended March 1988 and the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (Machinery Directive). It provides instruction to the user with regards to the care and safe use of RIGGING SCREWS & TURNBUCKLES. It should be read in conjunction with the requirements for general purpose slinging practice, the principles of which may be applied to the use of rigging screws & turnbuckles with or without slings.

This information is of a general nature only covering the main points for the safe use of rigging screws & turnbuckles some of which comply with US Fed Spec FF-T-791b. It may be necessary to supplement this information for specific applications.

## **ALWAYS:**

- Ensure the operator is properly trained to use rigging screws and turnbuckles
- Store and handle rigging screws & turnbuckles correctly.
- Inspect rigging screws & turnbuckles before use and before placing into storage.
- Select the correct size rigging screw or turnbuckle for the application.
- Ensure that the rigging screw or turnbuckle is compatible in size with any mating equipment

## **NEVER:**

- Use long tommy bars, grips or wrenches to tighten rigging screws & turnbuckles.
- Use in applications where the rigging screw or turnbuckle could rotate and unscrew
- Shock load rigging screws or turnbuckles.

## **Selecting the Correct Turnbuckle**

Ensure the rigging screw or turnbuckle is the correct WLL for the load

Ensure the length of adjustment is suitable for the application

Where vibration may occur, locknuts or other suitable methods of securing must be used eg. wire seizing

Ensure end fittings are correct for the application and compatible with any mating equipment

## **Storing and Handling Rigging screws & Turnbuckles**

Never return damaged rigging screws & turnbuckles to storage. They should be dry, clean and protected from corrosion.

Care must be taken to protect threads from damage whilst in store.

Screw threads should be lubricated, protected and handled with care.

## **Using Rigging screws & Turnbuckles Safely**

Do not attempt lifting operations unless you understand the use and limitations to use of the equipment, the slinging procedures and the mode factors to be applied.

The terminal fittings must be fully screwed through the female threads with a minimum length of 1.6 times the thread diameter maintained within the body at each end

The plain length of the bolt fitted to a screwed fork should be long enough to ensure that the securing nut seats on the shoulder of the thread – not against the side of the fork body

When tensioning a rigging screw or turnbuckle, torque should be applied by means of a short bar – a long bar or extension to the bar should not be used

If locknuts are fitted they must be securely tightened following the final adjustment. Care should be taken not to over-tighten locknuts. The security of all locking devices should be regularly checked

Do not alter, modify or repair a turnbuckle but refer such matters to a Competent Person.

## **In-service Inspection and Maintenance**

Maintenance requirements are minimal. Keep rigging screws & turnbuckles clean, protect from corrosion and protect threads from damage. Do not attempt to straighten bent rigging screws & turnbuckles or re-cut threads.

Regularly inspect rigging screws & turnbuckles and, in the event of the following defects, refer the rigging screw or turnbuckle to a Competent Person for thorough examination: Illegible markings, damage to internal or external threads, distorted body or end terminations – including load pins, worn thread and/or end terminations, nicks, cracks, gouges or corrosion, incorrect load pins fitted to fork terminations, damaged or missing locknuts

## **In the case of re-selling and/or hire of equipment, this information must be passed onto the end user**

Further information can be obtained from:

- US Fed Spec FF-T-791b
- The Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment.