WIRE ROPE SLING/CHOKER INSPECTION GUIDELINES

How Often Should A Wire Rope Sling/Choker Be Inspected?

- **Pre-Use:**
  - The equipment should be inspected prior to use
  - Note: If the equipment becomes damaged during use, it should be removed from service and destroyed immediately

- **Annually:**
  - All wire rope slings/chokers shall undergo an annual inspection by a competent person
    - The annual inspection shall include the tagging of the equipment with a “Yearly Color”

Who Can Inspect The Equipment?

- **A Competent Person**
  - An OSHA "competent person" is defined as "one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them" [29 CFR 1926.32(f)].
  - The employer must assign the inspection duties to a person who they deem to be a “competent person”. This will be someone who is capable of reading, understanding, and using this guide. This person must also have the authority to remove from service, equipment that he/she deems unsafe and/or not fit for use.

What Should The Competent Person Look For?

- **According to ASME B30.9**
  - Missing or illegible sling information (missing tag)
  - Broken Wires:
    - For strand-laid and single-part slings, 10 randomly distributed broken wires in one rope lay, or 5 broken wires in one strand in one rope lay.
    - For Cable-Laid Slings, 20 broken wires per lay.
    - For less than eight-part braided slings, 20 broken wires per braid.
    - For eight-part or more than eight braided slings, 40 broken wires per braid.
  - Severe localized abrasion or scraping.
  - Kinking, crushing, “bird caging”, or any other damage resulting in damage to the rope structure.
  - Evidence of heat damage.
  - End attachments that are cracked, deformed, or worn to the extent that the strength of the sling is substantially affected.
  - Severe corrosion of the rope, end attachments, or fittings.
  - Other conditions, including visible damage, that cause doubt as to the continued use of the sling.