Lifting Sling Colours

The words highlighted in yellow are links to photos you will need to view this document online to use the links.

When it comes to lifting equipment, certain products are notably distinguishable from the next; e.g. no-one is going to confuse a pallet truck and a forklift any time soon.

However, when it comes to lifting slings, it can be inherently difficult to differentiate one product from another, particularly when it comes to weight capacity.

Luckily, some bright spark created the handy lifting sling colour code along the way, quite literally changing the complexion of the lifting sling world as a result.

Lifting Sling Colour Code

Whether you opt for the web or round version of the lifting sling, these handy hoists typically come in a variety of colours.

This isn't simply a vibrant design choice: the colour coding system is a universally recognised method of determining how much weight a sling can handle – so it's important to get well acquainted.

The typical lifting sling colour code is as follows:

Purple Lifting Slings

Capable of lifting up to one tonne of weight max.

Green Lifting Slings

Capable of lifting up to two tonnes of weight max.

Yellow Lifting Slings

Capable of lifting up to three tonnes of weight max.

Grey Lifting Slings

Capable of lifting up to four tonnes of weight max.

Red Lifting Slings

Capable of lifting up to five tonnes of weight max.

Brown Lifting Slings

Capable of lifting up to six tonnes of weight max.

Blue Lifting Slings

Capable of lifting up to eight tonnes of weight max.

Orange Lifting Slings

Capable of lifting between 10 tonnes and 20 tonnes, depending on the chosen strength.

While these colour/weight categories are generally regarded as an industry standard across the board, there may be slight variations between suppliers and manufacturers.

As such, always be sure to double-check the colour corresponds with the correct weight you need prior to use.

This information should be readily available in the product description, instruction manual or manufacturer guidelines, if not on the sling itself.

Why have a lifting sling colour code?

The primary reason for specific lifting sling colours is, of course, safety. Categorising lifting slings into visible divisions is as clear as it gets when it comes to highlighting their identity and lifting capabilities. Some even have the weight limit printed on the sling itself for added clarity.

In addition to the practical side of it, colour coded lifting slings are also a legal requirement, falling under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) when it comes to laws and regulations. LOLER requires all lifting equipment to be fit for purpose, appropriate for the task and suitably marked, while they may also be subject to a thorough examination.

While LOLER rules don't specifically state that lifting sling colours are a necessity, it's become an accepted identifier within the industry that adheres to LOLER guidelines and, most importantly, is effective.

Employers have a legal responsibility to maintain all lifting equipment in a good serviceable condition. It is the responsibility of the user of lifting

and height safety equipment to perform a 'user inspection' of their equipment before and after use; (pre and post use inspection ensure two checks are carried out before the lifting gear is used) if any defect are detected the equipment should be immediately removed for service; thus preventing others from using the same potentially 'unsafe' equipment. The nominated person that is responsible for the lifting equipment scheme ensures all equipment reported as faulty is examined thoroughly by a competent person and any defects rectified or the equipment replaced. The competent person has the necessary practical and theoretical knowledge and experience to thoroughly examine, identify and rectify any faults (or return to others for rectification);

Colour code instant identification
To comply with LOLER 98 all lifting equipment and height safety equipment needs to be subjected to a thorough examination by a competent person at maximum intervals. Dependant on the piece of equipment the maximum period between inspections is either 6 or 12 months though it must be noted that this maximum period must be reduced dependant on how that equipment is used, the environment of use and by who / how often it is used (etc...).

By integrating a colour code system in to your a lifting and / or height safety scheme at the work place users will be able to instantly identify when the equipment was last examined by the competent person and therefore that the equipment should not be used.For example January to March is RED, April to June is BLUE etc... Having 4 or more colours rotating in the colour code system means that if a piece of equipment goes missing when the inspection is due there is a good chance it will be re discovered before the same colour rotates live once more.

Webbing Lifting Straps Quick Overview

- Available in simplex (single thickness) Duplex (double thickness) and Endless variations. flat web slings
- Various widths available, from 30mm up to 300mm in simplex and 600mm in duplex and endless.
- Depending on the hitch type used, the SWL can go from 500kg up to 80 tonnes.
- Suitable for the main hitch types, vertical; choke and basket types.
- Made from high tensile polyester.
- UV resistant and moisture resistant.
- Lightweight with very low elongation.

- Optional wear sleeves available.
- Lengths and end fittings to suit your requirements.

Material Advantages

As already mentioned, the polyester which is used to produce our flat web slings is equipped with a surprisingly high tensile strength. Its fibres not only allow for a range of load capacities, but also have the ability to fight fatigue and remain safe and effective for longer.

Another important asset of this material is its general resilience in the face of environments which might create problems if you were using a natural fibre in place of a synthetic one. Mould and mildew will not accumulate quickly or threaten the integrity of the sling, so you can lift with complete confidence, time and time again, whether indoors or out.

These perks of polyester go hand in hand with its sturdiness when exposed to sunlight on a regular basis. Some materials will degrade when UV rays come into the equation, but our flat web slings will not suffer in this way.

Convenient Design of Webbing Slings

The colour coding that is applied to this line up of slings is not only about improving productivity, but also about enhancing safety. You will never be confused about the load capacity of each sling because the colour gives a clear indication as to its capabilities. A similar system is used for round slings, so you may already be familiar with its codification and intentions.

At the lower end of the scale, basic black slings will be suitable for between 400kg and 700kg of load bearing. The configuration of the sling itself will determine the safe working load, so be sure to check carefully to buy the right product. Meanwhile the sturdiest slings around are orange in colour and are available in a variety of widths to give you that optimal 80 tonne capacity.

Add-Ons for a Web Sling

As we touched upon in the quick feature overview for this range, when you buy flat web slings from Lifting Gear direct you can also include extra features, such as wear sleeves. These sleeves cover

the surface of the sling, sitting between it and any load it is supporting or equipment it is being used in conjunction with.

A wear sleeve does exactly what the name suggests; prevents wear and tear that could otherwise occur as a result of friction and abrasions during lifting operations.

Customisation of Flat Web Slings

Wear sleeves are just the start when it comes to your customisation options for ordering flat web slings. We can make adjustments to the length of the sling so that it has exactly the dimensions you require. We can add components to the end of slings as well, pulling from our line of lifting accessories that cover every possible eventuality.

This level of control over the products we offer applies across many of our ranges. From chain slings to tailor made jib cranes, you can ask us to create something that is made to measure and manufactured using the latest technologies and techniques.

Other Products to Consider

If you have specific lifting duties to take care of, then you will find a lot of excellent options on our site, all priced affordably to meet a variety of budgets. If you are concerned about corrosion resistance, our stainless steel lifting chains and components could be a good investment. If you want to restrain loads effectively but do not want something so permanent as a metal chain, then our disposable one way slings will meet your requirements.

You can even ensure safety with our load and force calculation equipment, work effectively at height with our kits and keep everything running smoothly with our lifting equipment inspections and testing.

SWL	Colour
1,000kg	
2,000kg	
3,000kg	

4,000kg	
5,000kg	
6,000kg	
8,000kg	
10,000kg – 20,000kg	