



GUIDANCE FOR INSPECTION COLOR CODING OF OFFSHORE LIFTING SLINGS

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Disclaimer

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Table of Contents

Overview..... 2
 Guidance Application 2
 BSEE Observations..... 2
 Lifting Sling Color Coding..... 3

List of Tables

Table 1 Default OOC Lifting Sling Inspection Year Color Codes..... 3



Overview

This guidance document covers optional color coding for offshore lifting sling inspection dates. After engagements between the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Offshore Operators Committee (OOC), it was recommended that guidance that could be adopted by multiple operators and their contractors in the US Gulf of Mexico may aid in reduction of lifting related incidents. Input from BSEE was provided after a focused inspection program executed of several facilities offshore.

Guidance Application

The guidance contained within this document is voluntary. Any company that has established color coding programs does not have to adopt this document. Any company that does not have an established color coding program may choose to adopt this guidance. Any company could choose to encourage adoption of this guidance from their supporting contractors to aid in consistency. This guidance was based on experience and BSEE inspections carried out on the US Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Region.

The lifting slings within the scope of this guidance document are multi-use lifting slings (not pre-slung). Lifting slings do not have to be color coded, hard tags or similar may be used. This document is not intended to conflict with any guidance contained within the latest published edition of API RP 2D.

BSEE Observations

During focused BSEE inspections offshore in the GOM Region in 2019, the following observations were made.

- Found undocumented sling from 2014 stored with other slings
- Lifting sling register could not be provided on all facilities
- Lifting gear inspection form could not be provided on all facilities
- Some companies had no frequency requirement to change out lifting slings
- Some color codes for inspection years were not well understood or posted

As a result of dialogue between BSEE and OOC, it was recommended that a default standard for inspection year color coding may assist in housekeeping of lifting slings offshore. BSEE Office of Safety Management strongly encouraged use of a common default lifting sling color code for inspection year that could be commonly understood between vessels, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) and facilities and between contractors and subcontractors. BSEE did not recommend that companies that already had their own lifting sling color code system change to this default color coding.



Lifting Sling Color Coding

Lifting sling inspection years should be tied to a company policy on lifting sling management. Lifting sling management should include at a minimum:

- Inspection (including required frequency and inspection type)
- Rated Working Load
- Retirement Criteria
- Tagging (& Color Coding)

The default lifting sling inspection color codes for 2020 to 2030 are displayed in the following table.

Table 1 Default OOC Lifting Sling Inspection Year Color Codes

Inspection Year	Color Code
2020	Blue
2021	Green
2022	Orange
2023	Pink
2024	Yellow
2025	Purple