



SpanSet flat webbing products include flat slings, endless flat slings and fingered boat lifting slings.

FROM CONCEPT TO DELIVERY

Spanset has been manufacturing high-quality synthetic products for the crane industry for over 50 years. As a local manufacturer, SpanSet will take enquiries, conceptualise them, create a design, manufacture and test them, to world-class standards – all under the one roof.

SPANSET AUSTRALIA MANUFACTURES

high quality, standard, and bespoke webbing round slings and flat slings at its Emu Plains facility, west of Sydney. For over 50 years, the brand SpanSet has been recognised as a global leader in the manufacture of high-quality synthetic products for the crane and related industries.

Ben Fitzgerald of Queensland Rigging Hire is a big fan of SpanSet products, and he recently took delivery of two 20t

capacity, 10m long flat web slings.

“The new flat web slings we recently acquired are ideal for many applications, including lifting boats. Yachts come out of the water infrequently for maintenance and they can be in different locations, and the rigging arrangements for each yacht is always different. These SpanSet slings are ideal for this type of application and significantly add to our ability to service our customers,” he said.

“We like to offer our customers

premium products and, in our opinion, SpanSet has the undisputed best product on the market, and it’s good to be able to provide our customers the best available in Australia and probably the best in the world.”

Fitzgerald elaborates on why he holds the SpanSet brand and their products in such high regard.

“In this industry, you get what you pay for, and when you buy SpanSet you know it’s a premium product, and



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ultimately premium products perform better and last longer.

“Customers want to see top quality, Australian made gear. It makes them more confident about completing the lift safely and effectively. At the end of the day, you can have the very best cranes on the lift, but if the slings fail, everything does. Customers are increasingly demanding the best quality slings, and with SpanSet as our supplier, we can provide that,” he said.

Jeff Pogson is the national technical and product development manager for SpanSet Australia. He explains how the business can “personalise” its service for customers in the crane industry.

“We can take enquiries, conceptualise them, create a design, manufacture them and then test them

all under one roof,” he said.

Being an Australian manufacturer, SpanSet supports Australian manufacturing, and the bulk of their webbing is manufactured in Australia, with the remainder being sourced from SpanSet in Europe.

SpanSet’s polyester webbing starts at 25mm wide and goes all the way up to 600mm, meaning SpanSet has no limitations to their abilities.

“SpanSet flat webbing products include endless single and two ply flat slings, single, two and four ply flat slings as well as fingered boat lifting slings,” says Pogson.

“We also manufacture webbing lifting nets using pocket webbing and conventional flat webbing, and we produce bespoke lifting mats.”



SpanSet polyester webbing starts at 25mm wide and goes all the way up to 600mm.



SpanSet manufacturing is carried out by fully trained machinists on machines designed for tough work, following SpanSet quality assurance procedures.

In addition to their leading range of flat slings, SpanSet also has a vast range of round slings, including the E Series, Supra Plus, Magnum Plus, Magnum Force and Magnum Dyneema slings.

“Our standard locally manufactured round slings represent excellent value for money. Where weight and elongation are a concern, we offer slings manufactured with modified high performance polyester in the form of our Magnum Force premium round sling range.

“Our round sling machines are from Germany and incorporate several manufacturing features to minimize creep and elongation. We can make round slings from 400mm up to 60 metres in length, depending on the capacity,” said Pogson.

Being an Australian manufacturer is pivotal for SpanSet. They strive to have the highest manufacturing capabilities in Australia and take their role as industry leaders very seriously. Their fully trained machinists carry out all SpanSet Australia’s manufacturing on machinery designed for tough work.

The SpanSet logo stands for quality says Fitzgerald. “All thoughts of increased risk are alleviated because you know the product you are using is the

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best. Many companies can build slings, but SpanSet is world-renowned for the Research & Development it conducts, the quality of the product they produce,

and the testing processes they put their products through. The same cannot be said for many of the imported products on the market,” said Fitzgerald. ●



For over 50 years, SpanSet has been recognised as a global leader in the manufacture of high-quality synthetic products for the crane and related industries.

SpanSet
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DELIVERING SAFETY

FROM CONCEPT TO DELIVERY - LOCAL BESPOKE MANUFACTURING



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WORKING AT HEIGHTS THE NEED TO BE TRAINED

In this first instalment of a two-part article, Working at Heights Association CEO, Rick Millar explores the importance of training for personnel working at heights.

WHEN WORKING IN THE CRANE INDUSTRY, training needs to cover a wide spectrum of activities requiring the personnel to use their skill and knowledge to carefully plan the installation of the machines, equipment and the actual lifting operation.

Some of these key elements listed here would be recorded in the risk assessment and or method statement.

- Planning – including site preparation, crane erection and dismantling.
- Selection, provision and use of a suitable crane and work equipment.
- Including safe slinging and signalling arrangement.
- Maintenance and examination of the crane and equipment.
- Provision of properly trained and competent personnel.
- Supervision of operations by personnel having the necessary authority.
- Thorough examinations, reports and other documents.
- Preventing unauthorised movement or use of the crane.
- Measures to secure the safety of persons not involved in the lifting.
- Understand the Safe Work Regulation and Work Practice requirements.

Regulation and Work practice requires all lifting operations involving lifting equipment must be properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised, and carried out in a safe manner. Cranes and lifting accessories

Poorly trained employees working at height are a danger to themselves and those they are working with.



such as slings must be of adequate strength, tested and subject to the required examinations and inspections.

All crane operators, and people involved in slinging loads and directing lifting operations, must be trained and competent.

This same level of competence is required when you work at heights, your safety focus during those times is of utmost importance. It takes one mistake to turn a routine task into a serious injury or fatality. You must be prepared

to protect yourself each and every time as you could be exposed to a fall-hazard, remember we all want to ensure that we protect ourselves and those that work with us from injury or death.

The Australian work force has many trades and occupations that require workers to utilise their skills in the occupation of their choosing, it is expected that persons working in these trades have been trained in the skills needed to carry out the work required in some cases there are penalties where

work is carried out by persons not trade qualified yet we do not have a requirement to be trained for working at height even though it is considered to be high risk.

Often these workers find themselves in positions where they are expected to work at height either above or below ground often with little or no knowledge of the risks they face as there is no legislated requirement other than a recommendation for Height Safety training in work practice documents for these people to have had at least minimal training in the recognition of risk and the means to minimise those risks and dangers they face when working at height.

to have the recourse to ensure that those working at height are provided with enough information and skill to try and maintain a measure of safety, we really need to decide if this is working or do we need a more enlightened way to produce a safer outcome.

CAN THE LACK OF HEIGHT SAFETY TRAINING INCREASE THE RISK OF WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS?

Poorly trained employees working at height are a danger to themselves and those who they are working with often placing those tasked with the job of rescuing them at risk, this is not because

Regulation and Work practice requires all lifting operations involving lifting equipment must be properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised, and carried out in a safe manner.

WHAT IS WORKING AT HEIGHT?

There are many definitions of Working at height one of these refers to any work where a person may have a requirement to have two feet off the ground after which a person could potentially fall from any height and injure themselves.

It could be from a ladder, a roof's edge, through an opening, even a loading dock or truck all of which can be considered as working at height.

Safe Work Australia in their document "Construction Industry Profile" has shown that the number of workers in the construction industry has grown by 33 per cent over the past 11 years.

Within the construction industry 76 per cent of workers were classed as employees and were covered by workers' compensation schemes and there have been significant reductions in the numbers and rates of injuries and fatalities in this industry over the last ten years or more though the numbers are unacceptably still high.

Even with the knowledge that personal working at height is at risk, the regulators do not enforce training even to a minimum standard but only recommend that the those working at height are trained relying on the PCBU

they choose to be or act in a wilfully negligent manner.

There are many ways in which training can improve performance and reduce the risk of injury and just as many ways that a lack of proper training can spell disaster. Following are some of the ways the adequacy of training can be tied to the risk of injury.

- Employees are unqualified for their positions. While on the job training is an invaluable educational tool, employers are often in a hurry to leave new employees to their own devices. This sink or swim approach can be dangerous because if the employee hasn't shown or does not understand the requirements of working at height unable to fully demonstrate that he or she can work safely, the risk of a workplace accident increases.
- Employees are not provided adequate safety procedures or protocols to follow. Everyone knows that using machinery is dangerous if there is a lack of knowledge in regard to the way machine is used this is no different from worker tasked to work at height and can present a risk to those persons and others in their immediate surroundings. Informing a work force

on the proper ways to limit these risks and to respond in an emergency will greatly reduce the chances that workers will put themselves and others at risk. Safety checklists and protocols shouldn't just be established for workers – they should receive training that educates them on safety procedures and how to abide by them.

- New employees are not properly supervised. When a worker is receiving training on the job, it is important for his or her supervisors to remain with the employee and put an immediate stop to any action that risks the worker's well-being or that of other workers in the area.
- Employees are not provided detailed information concerning the risks that are specific to their occupations when working at height. An example of this would-be apprentices on construction sites not being provided information on how to avoid electrocution, how to prevent falls from scaffolding, ladders and structures of various types and what forms of personal protective gear Harnesses, Lanyards and the like are needed on the worksite.

CAN TRAINING TO WORK AT HEIGHT DECREASE THE RISK OF WORKPLACE INCIDENTS?

It is reasonable to assume you are working at a height if you:

- work above ground level;
- could fall off an edge, or through an opening; and
- could fall from ground level into an opening or crack on the ground.

There are various sectors of work this applies and not inclusive to the following, window cleaners, firefighters, pilots, rock-climbing instructors and construction workers and those that operate cranes.

This type of work is naturally dangerous, so you should take every precaution if you plan on working at heights. One of these precautions should always be training.

Training is very important for working at heights, because falls can result in fatalities and injuries resulting in loss of work and lifestyle. ●

LIFT OF THE MONTH

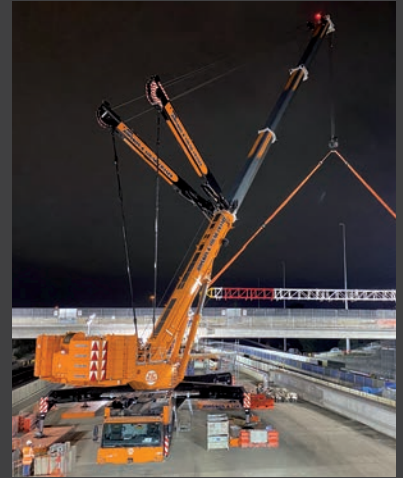
PLEASE SEND YOUR LIFT OF THE MONTH ENTRIES TO
SIMON.GOULD@PRIMECREATIVE.COM.AU



WHO: A.M.Cranes
WHERE: Darwin
LIFT: Air conditioning units weighing 1.2t.
CRANE: Liebherr LTM 1200-5.1 working at 66m.



WHO: Borger Cranes
WHERE: -Briner Bridge over Upper Coldstream River in Tucabia Northern NSW.
CRANE: Liebherr 500t all terrain with 165t of counterweight and 28 metres luffing fly.
LIFT DESCRIPTION: Installation of a 34 tonne bridge constructed in steel and timber replacing a dare type truss bridge.



WHO: Johnson Young Cranes
WHERE: Melbourne. Westgate Tunnel Project
CRANE: Liebherr LTM 1750-9.1
CRANE CONFIGURATION: TY
49.1 metres of boom 204t of counterweight. Crane radius 26.5 metres.
LIFT: Bridge beam weight 52t.



WHO: Mid Coast Cranes
WHERE: Darawank Substation
CRANE: Grove GMK4100L-1 100t capacity 27.84m Boom Length
LIFT: 33t Transformer.
CHALLENGES: Due to site restrictions, the crane needed to be jacked high enough to reverse the float under the crane to reduce the working radius.



WHO: Top Gun Cranes
WHERE: Sydney
LIFT: 41t luxury cruiser
CRANE: Liebherr LTM 1130-5.1
LIFT CHALLENGES: SpanSet had to specially manufacture the lifting slings, over a weekend, so the lift could proceed on time.



WHO: Two Way Cranes
WHERE: Sydney Harbour Bridge
LIFT: 266 three tonne concrete panels
CRANES: 2 x Liebherr LTM 1060-3.1
Cranes operated from the north and south end of the bridge, lifting every 15 minutes for 3 days and nights.