



G31. What is the service life for a textile sling?

Unless a service life has been explicitly specified by the manufacturer, a textile sling may remain in service as long as it shows no signs of defect, excessive wear, or degradation.

This topic often causes confusion within the industry, largely due to the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulation and the fact that similar textile materials are used in both lifting slings and personal protective equipment (PPE).

The PPE Regulation sets out the Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSRs) for the design and manufacture of PPE intended to protect users against health and safety risks.

The PPE Regulation, together with the relevant harmonised standard EN 365, requires expiry dates to be applied to items of PPE. However, no fixed expiry period is specified in the legislation. It simply states that if a manufacturer knows the equipment is likely to degrade over time, this period must be declared. As a result, it is common to see expiry dates or defined service lives on PPE products.

Textile slings, however, are not within the scope of the PPE Regulation, and the standards governing them do not specify a fixed service life.

That said, a manufacturer retains the right to specify a service life if they determine it is necessary for safety. In such cases, the competent person must follow the manufacturer's instructions and withdraw the sling from service once the specified service life has expired.

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