

PHYSICAL STATE			
	ITEM CHECKED	INSPECTION DETAILS	ISSUES/ IMPLICATIONS
A	Attachments	Check all loops/clips at their connection/stress points as per instructions. If there is any sign of deterioration of the attachment points, the check must be documented as X for “fail”. If there is no apparent damage, document as V for “pass”.	Any physical damage to attachment points represents an imminent structural failure and a serious safety issue.
B	Stitching	Check stitching of the entire sling including the stitching of all seams, strap connections and trim. The critical areas to inspect are the strap attachment points as indicated in the attachments check but also any sewn/threaded material seams within the body of the sling. You should be looking for any fraying or loose stitching in these areas. If there any sign of deteriorations of the stitching at attachment points or at any sewn/threaded material seams, the check must be documented as X for “fail”. If no apparent damage, document as V for “pass”.	Any physical damage to stitching represents an imminent structural failure and a serious safety issue.
C	Fabric/ Body	Check the body of the sling for any rips or holes. If there is any sign of rips, holes or deterioration of the sling body material in any way, the check must be documented as X for “fail”. If no apparent damage, document as V for “pass”.	Any physical damage to the body/fabric of the sling represents an imminent structural failure and serious safety issue.
D	Head Supports	Note whether the sling model requires head support stiffeners. If the sling does have pockets for head support stiffeners and they are missing, then you must remove the sling from service until they can be located or replaced.	Head support stiffeners are an integral part of this type of slings structure. Using a sling without head supports is a serious safety issue.
STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY			
	ITEM CHECKED	INSPECTION DETAILS	ISSUES/ IMPLICATIONS
E	Bleach Damage	Check extremely faded colors in the body fabric or trim sizing color. If bleach damaged is evident, the check must be documented as X for “fail”, otherwise document as V for “pass”.	Bleach is known to prematurely deteriorate the structural sling materials; therefore, its integrity is unknown presenting a potential safety issue.
F	Heat Damage	Check the sling for heat damage. This may be detected as an overall shrinking of the sling or may be noticed on the padded leg section and can be identified by shrinking or scrunching of the leg portion. Additionally, heat damage may be found on other areas by noticing a brittle or ridged/stiff feel to the fabric. If heat damage is evident, the check must be documented as X for “fail”, otherwise document as V for “pass”.	Heat damage may cause shrinking, unknown damage to structural materials and issues with patient comfort/skin damage; therefore, presenting a potential safety issue.
G	Stain Check	Check the sling for excessive staining. Some staining may occur due to an incontinent patient, other staining may indicate exposure to chemicals. If there is any suspicion that staining is not a result of use with an incontinent client, then this is an indication of the use of unapproved chemicals in the laundering process. If non- incontinent related staining is evident, the check must be documented as X for “fail”, otherwise document as V for “pass”.	Unapproved chemicals are known to prematurely deteriorate the structural sling materials; therefore, its integrity is unknown presenting a potential safety issue.
H	Label Check	Check the sling label to note if the information is still legible. If the original sling label is legible, document as V for “pass.” If the original label is missing or illegible, the sling should be documented as X for “fail”.	Faint or missing labels could lead to using the improper sling for the patient or the improper sling for the equipment, which presents a potential safety issue.

		<p>If you are following the Safe Work Procedure (SWP): Sling Labels in Health PEI Long Term Care Facilities, please do the following:</p> <p><i>If the original sling label is not legible, the check must be documented as a star. Ensure that the tag added to the sling prior to it entering circulation still contains all information outlined in the SWP from the original label and add a star (*) onto it. This indicates that all items on this inspection list must be double checked. Therefore, each column, for those with a star (*) must have two ✓ or two X.</i></p>	
I	Clip Check	<p>Each sling clip is designed to have a partial mechanical resistance to prevent inadvertent dislocation from the spreader bar lug. In some cases, this mechanical resistance or audible click when the sling is attached. When this mechanical resistance or audible click is not present, the sling is still okay to use (assuming proper operating instructions are followed). If the sling clip does not pass the mechanical resistance check according to the sling clip gauge, then the check must be documented as X for “fail”, otherwise document as ✓ for “pass”.</p>	<p>If a clip’s mechanical resistance does not pass the check according to the sling clip gauge, this is an indicator of excessive use, therefore, the sling is beyond its useful life.</p>
J	Age Check	<p>If the sling has been in service for over 2 years, the check must be documented as X for “fail”, otherwise document as ✓ for “pass”. Please note that sling life expectancy can change with the frequency of washes. For ARJO slings, the 2-year life expectancy is based on washing once weekly (104 washes). With washing twice weekly, the life expectancy decreases to 1.5 years.</p>	<p>If a sling has been used for over 2 years, the sling is beyond its useful life.</p>

FINAL CONDITION DETERMINATION		
CODE	DEFINITION	ISSUES/ IMPLICATIONS
Pass (P)	Indicates that the sling passed inspection in all 10 inspection categories.	The sling is safe to use.
Fail (F)	Indicates that the sling failed inspection in any one of the 4 physical state categories.	The sling exhibits obvious physical deterioration and is potentially unsafe to use.
Recommended Replacement (RR)	Indicated that the sling passed in all 4 physical state criteria but failed in any one of the 6 structural integrity/ life indicator categories (other than sling label).	The sling’s condition indicates that it is beyond its useable life and the structural integrity is unknown. The sling cannot be guaranteed to be safe over the long term.

Please reach out to your sites respective MSIP Consultant with any questions or concerns (<https://src.healthpei.ca/occupational-health-safety-wellness-team>)