

# CLARIFICATION OF PERIODIC INSPECTION FREQUENCIES

The term “annual” often gets used incorrectly when it comes to addressing the frequency of a Periodic rigging inspection. In OSHA 1910.184 and ASME B30.9 slings standards, the term “annual” is never actually used when providing a definition for a Periodic inspection or in the determination of the frequency of a Periodic inspection.

## Actual OSHA and ASME Definitions for Periodic Inspection:

### OSHA 1910.184(e)(3)(i):

...a thorough periodic inspection of alloy steel chain slings in use shall be made on a regular basis, to be determined on the basis of (A) frequency of sling use; (B) severity of service conditions; (C) nature of lifts being made; and (D) experience gained on the service life of slings used in similar circumstances. Such inspections shall in no event be at intervals greater than once every 12 months.

### ASME B30.9:

**Periodic Inspection Frequency. Periodic inspection intervals shall not exceed one year. The frequency of periodic inspections should be based on:**

- (1) Frequency of sling use
- (2) Severity of service conditions
- (3) Nature of load-handling activities
- (4) Experience gained on the service life of slings used in similar circumstances

**Guidelines for the time intervals are:**

- (1) Normal service – yearly
- (2) Severe service – monthly to quarterly
- (3) Special service – as recommended by a Qualified person

## Criteria for Determining Periodic Inspection Frequencies:

You should be aware that OSHA and ASME require a documented Periodic inspection of your lifting and rigging equipment every 12 months (at a minimum) and monthly to quarterly inspections in more severe service conditions, based on the following criteria:

- Frequency of sling use
- Severity of service conditions
- Nature of lifts / load-handling activities
- Experience gained on the service life of slings used in similar circumstances

**ASME B30.9 provides the following guidelines for Periodic inspection intervals:**

- Normal Service – Yearly
- Severe Service – Monthly to quarterly
- Special Service – As recommended by a Qualified person