LOAD RESTRAINT AND LIFTING GEAR INSPECTION PROCEDURE

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 This procedure details the requirements for the inspection of load restraint and load lifting gear.

2.0 SCOPE

2.1 The procedure applies to all Shoalhaven City Council workplaces where load restraint and lifting gear is used but this procedure does not deal with the design and/or use of this gear.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Load restraint gear	Equipment used to restrain loads on vehicles or trailers and includes ropes, webbing, strapping, nets, chains, and attachments such as hooks, clamps, turnbuckles, tensioners, ratchets and winches.
Lifting gear	Equipment used to lift loads and includes flexible steel wire ropes, chains, flat webbing and synthetic slings and attachments such as hooks, rings, spreader beams, shackles, eyebolts, swivels and turnbuckles.
Dogging Work	The application of slinging techniques, the selection and inspection of lifting gear and the directing of a crane operator or hoist operator in the movement of a load when the load is out of the operator's view.
Certificate of Competency - Dogging	A certificate issued by Workcover acknowledging that the holder has met national competency standards in dogging.

4.0 DESCRIPTION

4.1 **Purchase of load restraint and lifting gear** - Purchases of load restraint and lifting gear should normally be arranged through the Supply Team but Supervisors may make urgent purchases, if necessary, provided the gear meets Australian Standards for quality and rated capacity, and is marked accordingly.

4.2 **Inspection prior to use** - Immediately before use, load restraint and lifting gear shall be inspected for wear and damage; for safe working load tag, and for chain grade markings, by the employee responsible for it.

4.2.1 **Synthetic ropes** – every meter of rope shall be inspected, and be replaced, if it is weakened by more than 10% of its original breaking strength by wear or mechanical damage; exposure to chemicals; exposure to high temperatures; and prolonged exposure to sunlight. Damage can be recognised by the hairy appearance of the fibres.

4.2.2 **Flat Webbing and Webbing Assemblies** – shall be replaced, if SWL tag is missing, if it is weakened by more than 10% of its original breaking strength by wear or mechanical damage; exposure to chemicals; exposure to high temperatures; and prolonged exposure to sunlight. Webbing repaired in a manner not approved by the manufacture shall be replaced. Damage can be recognised by the furry appearance of the webbing, together with cuts and abrasions.

4.2.3 **Chains and Chain Assemblies** – shall be replaced; if chain grade markings are illegible, if any link, weakened by wear etc, is reduced by more than 10% of its original diameter; if any link is bent twisted, stretched or collapsed; if any link is repaired, except when approved by the original manufacturer; if any chain has a knot in it; if any assemblies are weakened or prevented from functioning.

4.2.4 **Flexible Steel Wire Rope** – shall be replaced if any rope length equivalent to 8 rope diameters contains more than 10% broken wires of the total number of wires; if any rope is reduced by more than 10% of its original diameter; if any rope is crushed or flattened more than 15% of its nominal diameter; and if any rope is significantly notched, kinked, stretched or unraveled ("birdcaged").

4.2.5 **Load restraint and lifting accessories** – shall be replaced if reduced by more than 10% of their original diameters; and for hooks, if the throat opening is more than 5% of the original throat opening.

4.3 **Inspections** – Slings and chains shall be inspected by competent person at least once every 3 months all load restraint and lifting gear shall be inspected annually and recorded.

4.3.1 **Qualifications of inspector** – the annual inspection shall be performed by the holder of a Certificate of Competency – Dogging, or equivalent relevant qualification.

4.3.2 **Responsibility** – Supervisors of employees responsible for load restraint and lifting gear shall arrange the annual inspection and schedule the inspection in COITS.

4.3.3 **Record of Inspections** – The form in Appendix A, or similar, shall be used and kept by the supervisor.

5.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	LOAD RESTRAINT AND LIFTING GEAR INSPECTION RECORD

6.0 REFERENCE AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

6.1 Work Health and Safety Act 2011
6.2 Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
6.3 AS 1353-1997 Flat Synthetic Webbing Slings
6.4 AS 3775 – 2004 Chain Slings
6.5 Part 2 of the WorkCover “Dogging Guide” 2003
6.6 Sections A,H and J of the NTC Australia “Load Restraint Guide” 2004
6.7 SCC Load Restraint Procedure
6.8 WHS306 SWMS – Operation of Vehicle Mounted Crane

APPENDIX A

LOAD RESTRAINT AND LIFTING GEAR INSPECTION RECORD

Date of Inspection	Inspector's Name	Dogging Cert of Competency issue date	Item inspected	Recommended for replacement (Yes/No)	Employee responsible for item	Date action taken, if necessary

All inspections completed and all necessary actions have been completed.

Supervisor signature:……. Supervisor name:……
Date:……..