 <p>Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte Health Service Executive</p>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">SAFETY ALERT</h1>				
Ref: SA: 003:03	RE: - Safe Use of Patient Hoist and Sling				
Issue date:	May 2015	Revised Date:	April 2019	Review Date:	April 2021
Author(s):	National Health & Safety Function - Training Team				
Distribution:	<p>ND Acute Operations  ND Community Operations  Each CHO Chief Officer  Each HG Chief Executive Officer  Each Assistant National Director, HR  Each CHO QPS Lead  Each CHO Safety Officer  Chair VHARMF  Service Managers /Designated Local Managers</p> <p><b>Please ensure that this Safety Alert is brought to the attention of all relevant persons in the workplace</b></p>				
<b>S</b>	<p><b>SITUATION:</b></p> <p>The arrangements for the servicing of patient hoists and associated equipment must comply with The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007, which requires a thorough examination of patient hoists be undertaken every six months by a competent person in accordance with Section 30, Schedule 1 Part B. This should include a thorough examination of slings and any other equipment used in the lifting of service users. A written record must be obtained and held on the premises and available for inspection when requested.</p>				
<b>B</b>	<p><b>BACKGROUND:</b></p> <p>An incident occurred in which a service user fell from a hoist to the floor while being transferred from their bed to a chair.</p>				
<b>A</b>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT:</b></p> <p>Following a thorough investigation it was concluded that the most probable cause of the incident was that the sling loop was not appropriately secured to the correct position of the hoist sling bar prior to operating the hoist.</p>				
<b>R</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff involved in people moving and handling activities must have appropriate People Moving and Handling training. This training should be repeated at not greater than three-yearly intervals or more frequently where identified through the training needs assessment. People Moving</li> </ol>				

and Handling training should include a demonstration of hoist and sling use

2. All staff involved in people moving and handling activities must be appropriately instructed by a competent person in the safe use of the specific hoist and slings currently in use at their work location. This must include the safe attachment of the sling to the hoist
3. All staff involved in people moving and handling activities must be familiar with the requirements for the safe moving and handling of the service user as specified in their respective individual people handling risk assessment prior to undertaking any people moving and handling activity
4. When attaching a sling with loop attachments to the hoist, the operator(s) must ensure that:
  - i. The appropriate sling loop is used to attach the sling to the hoist sling bar (See Fig.1)
  - ii. The sling loop is placed into the appropriate sling hook and secured by the safety latch (See Fig 2). The operator(s) must visually and physically check and confirm that the sling is appropriately secured to the hoist prior to commencing the lift (See Fig 3)

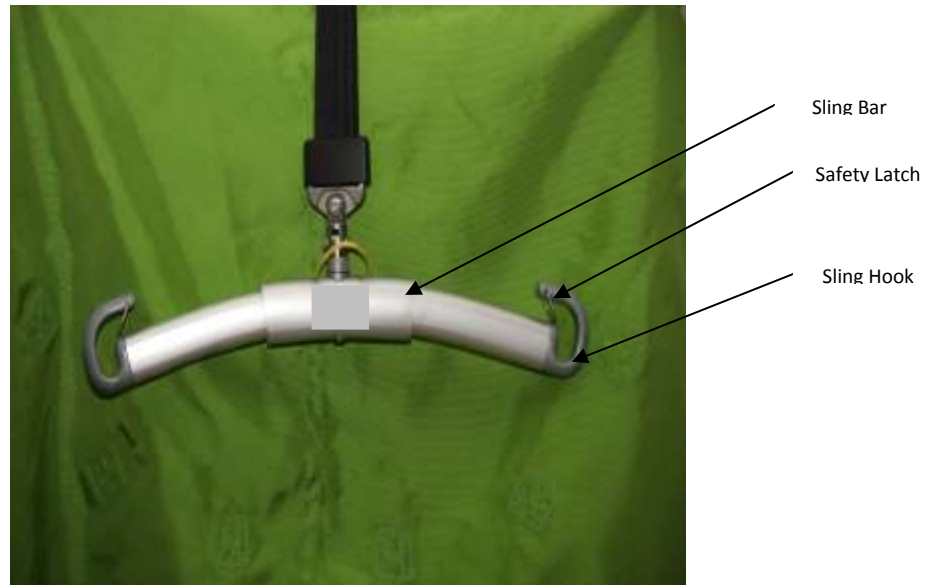
**Please note** different slings have different mechanisms to attach to the hoist (e.g. single loop, multi-loop, clips) therefore the operator(s) must ensure they follow the specific manufacturer's instruction and relevant training received when attaching the sling to the hoist currently in use at their work location.

**Fig.1 – Sling with loop attachments**



Sling Loop

**Fig.2 – Hoist Sling Bar**



**Fig.3 - Sling loops secured in sling hook with safety latch in place**

