



General information and important notes

The WH-HSB snatch block is designed and manufactured in accordance with ASME B30.26, EN13157:2004+A1:2009, and AS2089:2008.

This document is issued in accordance with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008. It provides essential safety information, guidance, and instruction to the user for the care and safe use of the equipment.

The information in this document must be passed to the duty holder responsible for the inspection, examination, use, storage, maintenance and repair of the equipment. The duty holder may or may not be the actual user of the equipment.

1. Pre-use Checks

- 1.1 In accordance with statutory requirements (e.g. The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998), all lifting operations should be planned by a competent person, require risk assessment and the production of a task method statement, and should be subject to execution by suitably trained operatives under the supervision of a responsible person. The specification of the snatch block required to achieve a safe lifting or rigging operation must be determined by a competent person.
- 1.2 Lifting equipment, including snatch blocks, should be inspected before each period of use and thoroughly examined at periodic intervals in accordance with statutory requirements (i.e. the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998).
- 1.3 The identification and WLL information must be clearly visible on the snatch block label accompanied by the CE mark.
- 1.4 The body of the snatch block should be checked for distortion, nicks, gouges, weld splatter, heat discoloration or excessive corrosion all of which are quarantine and potential discard criteria.
- 1.5 The sheave should be checked for nicks or gouges and for free rotation.
- 1.6 Lubrication should be provided via both grease nipples regularly.
- 1.7 The snap ring and split pin should be securely in place.

2. Safe use information

- 2.1 The WH-HSB snatch block is not designed for lifting people and should not be used for that purpose.
- 2.2 Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 2.3 Check the correct engagement of the snatch block's shackle into its load attachment point.
- 2.4 Ensure that the suspension or securing structure has sufficient load bearing strength and capacity to support the load that will be applied.

- 2.5 Establish a clearly defined zone around the area of the lifting operation.
- 2.6 Always stand aside from the load and moving parts when the operation is underway and ensure that no one enters the operational zone unintentionally.
- 2.7 Ensure that the lines of pull are free from contact with any objects not involved in the operation, particularly any angles or edges.
- 2.8 Take the load steadily and avoid shock loading.
- 2.9 Do not expose the snatch blocks to chemicals or corrosive solutions (whether immersed in such solutions or used in atmospheres in which fumes are present), particularly acidic or strongly alkaline environments without consulting the supplier or manufacturer.
- 2.10 Do not leave suspended loads unattended. In an emergency, cordon off the working area and establish safe exclusion zones.

3. Storing and handling snatch blocks

- 3.1 All lifting equipment and accessories should be stored in a designated secure area. The store should be dry, clean and protected from corrosion.
- 3.2 Never return damaged or contaminated snatch blocks to storage. Instead, quarantine and report the snatch block to a competent person.
- 3.3 Store a snatch block on a rack and do not leave lying on the ground.
- 3.4 Do not drag a snatch block, instead use a pallet or other container to move the equipment from one location to another.
- 3.5 The handling of a snatch block and associated equipment should have regard to statutory requirements, risk assessments, and method statements for manual handling operations.

4. Further information and guidance

- 4.1 Duty holders and actual users of lifting equipment, including snatch blocks and associated components, can obtain more detailed information and guidance on safe use and compliance with statutory requirements from the following publications (or later editions or replacements of those publications):
 - 4.1.1 HSE Publication L22 (2014) Safe Use of Work Equipment.
 - 4.1.2 HSE Publication L113 (2014) Safe Use of Lifting Equipment.
 - 4.1.3 HSE Publication INDG422 (2008) Thorough Examination of Lifting Equipment.
 - 4.1.4 HSE Publication L23 (2004) Manual Handling.
 - 4.1.5 HSE Publication L25 (2005) Personal Protective Equipment at Work.
- 4.2 For further information or other technical support about the use of WH-HSB snatch blocks, the user should contact the distributor or William Hackett.