

The American Association for Safe Patient Handling and Movement (AASPHM) Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines 2016

Goal of the Guidelines:

To provide information and recommendations about the compatibility of healthcare recipient (patient) slings and lift hanger bars that will assist healthcare facilities and organizations, caregivers, sling and lift manufacturers, and retailers to facilitate safe use of slings and lift hanger bars in any setting where healthcare recipients are lifted, moved and mobilized.

How were the Guidelines developed?

The AASPHM sling safety committee developed the Guidelines, as a result of stakeholder meetings and input via survey; extensive research of existing U.S. and International standards, guidelines, and evidence-based research; and expert opinion related to the compatibility and safe use of healthcare recipient lift and slings.

Focus of the Guidelines:

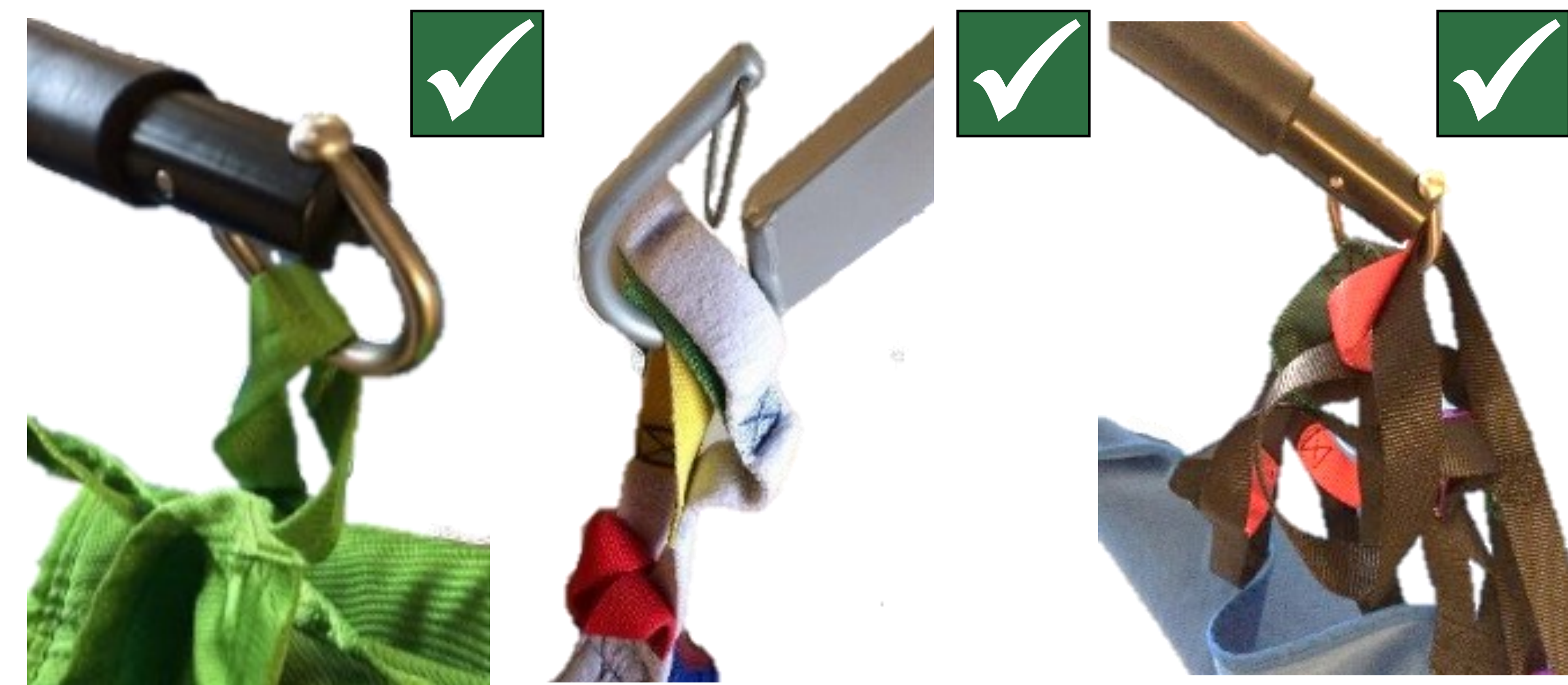
To provide a framework for reducing the risk of incorrect use of slings and lift hanger bars by healthcare workers through standardization of the design, inspection practices, use, and care of healthcare recipient slings.

For Healthcare Organizations/Facilities

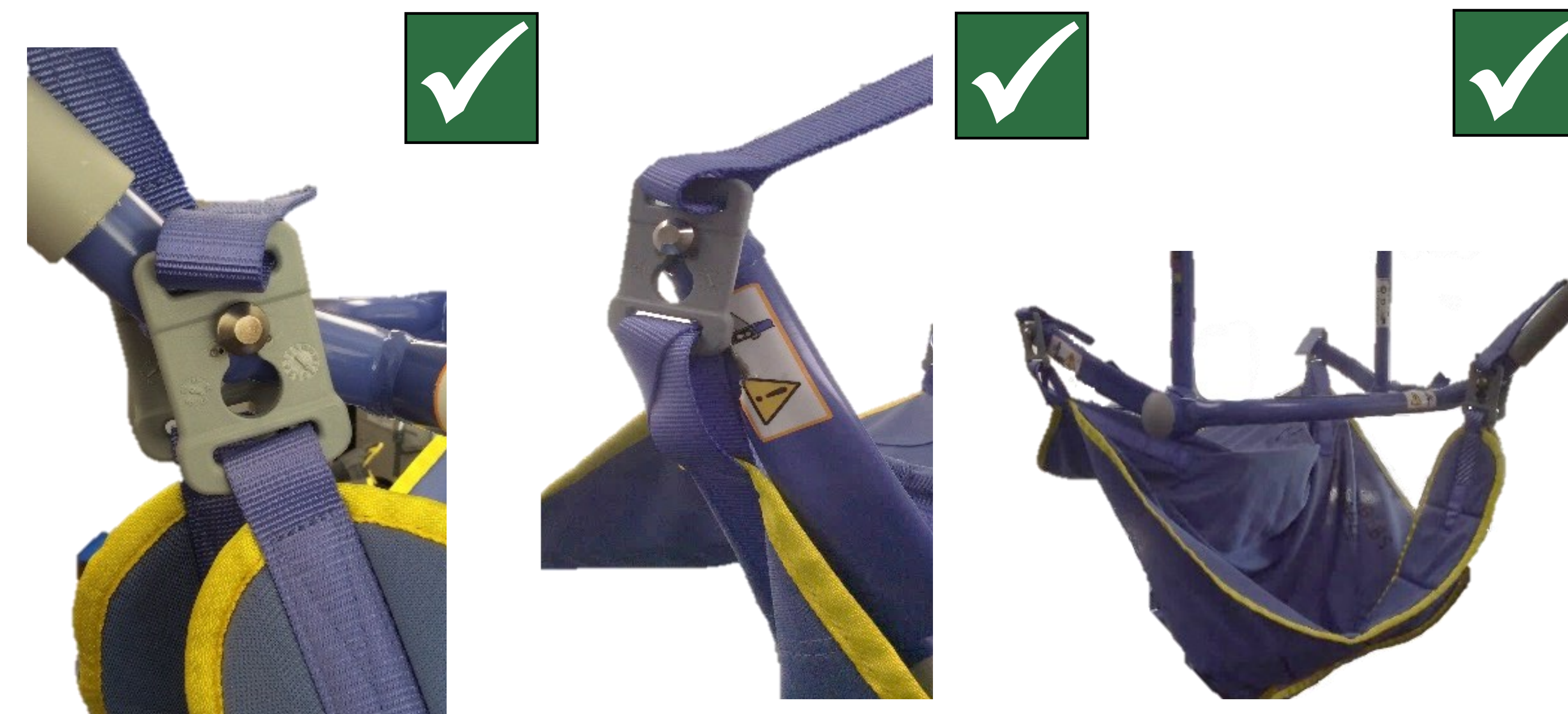
- Ensure healthcare recipient lifting devices (lifts, attachments and slings) devices comply with relevant standards (e.g., ISO 10535:2006 and FDA regulations for medical devices).
- Clip and loop slings should never be used interchangeably.
- When possible, standardization of lifts, hanger bars and slings is recommended within a setting to reduce the risk of healthcare worker error and to simplify training.
- If a mix of hanger bars and sling types is used, take precautions to prevent healthcare worker error such as, labeling of hanger bars to indicate use with the appropriate sling, and providing additional training for staff in appropriate use of hanger bars and slings.
- Slings should be laundered and maintained per sling manufacturers' instructions.
- It is critical that slings and hanger bars are inspected prior to each use and removed from service if they are worn or damaged.
- All clips, latches, loops and hanger bars must remain securely fastened during operation of a lift.
- Healthcare recipient assessment for Safe Patient Handling and Mobility (SPHM) should be conducted before using any sling and lift for a particular healthcare recipient.
- It is critical that a sling be compatible with a specific lift and meet the weight, shape, and clinical needs of the healthcare recipient.
- Purchasers of healthcare recipient lifts and slings should read and/or receive oral instructions provided by the sling and lift manufacturer in order to safely operate the device.
- Healthcare workers should receive employer-sponsored training and *demonstrate* understanding of how to safely use healthcare recipient lifts and slings.
- A system should be established to define how to properly clean, disinfect, maintain, repair, and upgrade lifts, slings, and other SPHM technology.

Sling and Hanger Bar Attachment Compatibility Tip Sheet

Hanger Bar that is designed to be used **only** with slings that have **loop attachment points**



Hanger Bar that is designed to be used **only** with slings that have **key or clip attachment points**



NEVER mix clip/key and loop systems



Slings with keys or clips must **never** be used with loop style hanger bars.

Slings with loops must **never** be used with key or clip style hanger bars.

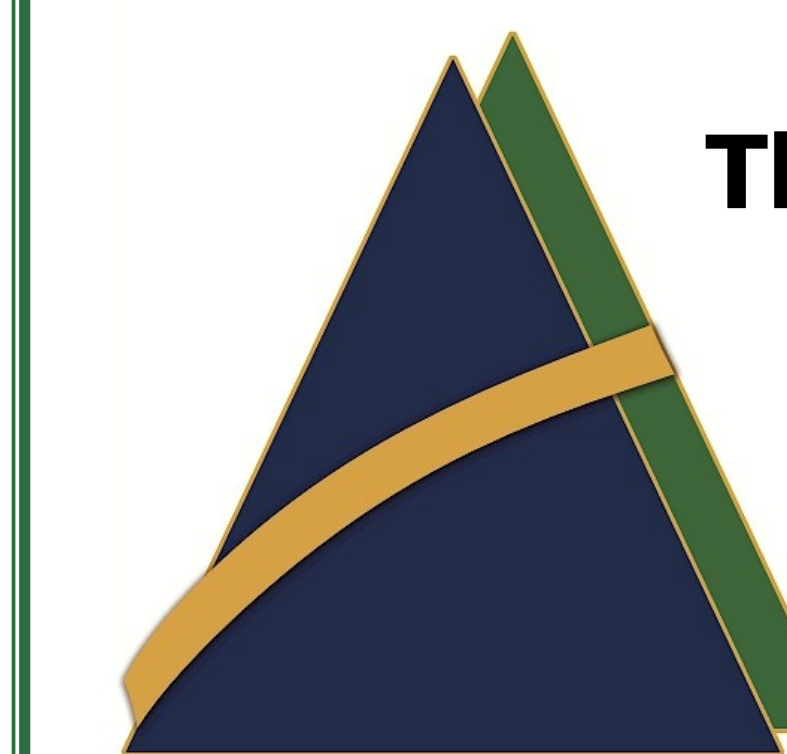
For Healthcare Workers

- Should have received training on safe use of lifts and slings and healthcare recipient assessment for SPHM.
- Perform a safety check each time they use a sling.
- Perform initial and ongoing assessment of each healthcare recipient's mobility and SPHM needs per organizational policy.*

*American Nurses Association. (2013). *Safe Patient Handling and Mobility: Interprofessional National Standards*. Nursebooks.org. Silver Spring, MD.

For Sling and Lift Manufacturers

Provides information about the manufacturer's responsibilities when designing and manufacturing lifts and slings and providing instructions for use, as required by the *International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 10535:2006 'Hoists for the transfer of disabled persons -- Requirements; and test methods, and design requirements for patient lifts'*, and by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) medical device regulations.



The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar
Compatibility Guidelines are available at

www.AASPHM.org

American Association for
Safe Patient Handling & Movement

The ISO 10535:2006 standard is currently being revised to reflect the availability of lifts that use newer technologies to move healthcare recipients, and to further address the safety concerns related to lift and sling compatibility. A member of the AASPHM Sling safety committee is one of the US delegation participating in the revision of ISO 10535 as a representative of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

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