



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 99-04

## RIG TONG SNUB LINES

### WHAT HAPPENED:

During an inspection on a rig, the rig company found that the rig was using incorrect size wire rope lines for snub lines on the rig tongs. The rig was using two 5/8" snub lines on the tongs instead of one single 1 1/4" line. The company involved stated that this practice has been found to create a possible hazard due to uneven distribution of load through the dual lines usually placing tension on only one of the lines. It also can create hand/body pinch point in between the lines. Tong manufacturers recommend the use of a single snub line according to the safety alert.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

The company involved instituted a policy that any rig operating with dual snub lines needs to change out lines to a single 1 1/4" 6 X 19 (Bright) EIPS IWRC, 15 Ton SWL (Safe Working Load) sling line (based on safety factor of 5:1). The lines should be measured and fitted according to rig floor layout, as per their engineering mast/drill floor rigging requirements. The end connections for this snub line should be mechanically swaged with heavy-duty thimble on both ends, 2 – 16 Ton Bolt Type Shackles, 1 – 4 3/4" Screw Pin Shackle.

**Note: Consult the manufacturer for recommendations for the type of snub lines that should be used with the tongs your company uses.**

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**The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.**

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