



SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

RIGGING – DESIGN & PRACTICES

TO WHAT AND TO WHOM THIS SHEET PERTAINS

All persons operating or designing a system intended to fly or otherwise move objects or people on stage during performances

RISKS OR CONSEQUENCES

Falls, injury from falling objects, muscle and ligament injuries, fatigue

BEST PRACTICES, RULES & PROCEDURES

- All rigging should stay within the limits of equipment capacity and safe working loads. Calculations should factor in reductions from the use of hardware, knots, splices, and stress from usage demands. **Never guess – always know!**
- Components should only be used for the function specifically recommended by the manufacturer.
- Always use the correct quantity, size, spacing, and attachment method, for any termination hardware (e.g. nicopress sleeve or cable clips). Use a thimble whenever forming a loop in the end of a cable. All hardware should be installed as per manufacturer specification.
- When working with rope, use the right knot for the application. Anyone rigging with rope should know “two half-hitches”, “clove hitch”, and a “bowline”.
- The load on any batten should be evenly distributed whenever possible.
- Critical instructions (particularly known unsafe conditions) must be mounted at the operating station (pinrail) and should be brief and easy to understand.
- Always inspect all components of a system before the show or rehearsal. Know the system part by part. Report any irregularities.
- Operators should never exceed a system’s rated speed limits. Operators should always remain in constant visual contact with the object or person they are moving. A spotter or video system can be acceptable alternatives in extenuating circumstances.
- Rigging construction should be done in quiet situations and when there is no chance of unnecessary people being put at risk.
- Make every attempt to insure no harm will come to a performer. For instance, when flying performers, incorporate a fall-arrest system if at all possible.
- Hydraulic or electrically driven systems require an emergency stop switch/button.
- **Never operate a rig if there are any doubts.**
- See also the *Safety Information Sheet* “Rigging – Responsibility”.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

[Stage Rigging Handbook, Third Edition](#) - Paperback (April 3, 2007) by Jay O. Glerum M.A. B.A.

[Mechanical Design for the Stage](#) - Paperback (Oct 2, 2007) by Alan Hendrickson

[Entertainment Rigging: A Practical Guide for Riggers and Managers](#) by Harry Donovan (Paperback - 2008)