

## Sling and Hoist Compatibility

### **Information for use of inter-changeable slings with other manufacturers hoists**

Silvalea Ltd has manufactured replacement slings and manual handling products for many hoist manufacturers, both within the UK and Europe for many years.

Throughout the years interchangeable slings has been an issue for many healthcare professionals. This is an understandable concern with the growing number of sling manufacturers within the market. There may be reluctance by certain hoist manufacturers to accept the interchange-ability of slings or hoists; however with a **thorough written risk assessment** conducted by a competent assessor (LOLER 1998/PUWER 1998), the use of interchanging slings can provide the right solution for a client's specific need most often at a reduced cost.

*Further guidance on risk assessments and competency can be found under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER 5 Dec 1998)*

Silvalea Ltd take their quality and workmanship very seriously and working within the industry since the introduction of **The Manual Handling Operations Regulations in 1992 (90/269/EEC Directive)** Silvalea Ltd have consistently grown and developed to provide a range of replacement slings to suit many different conditions within the healthcare sector.

Silvalea Ltd is governed and conducts its manufacturing and design towards the guidelines set out in **British Standard 10535:2006 'Hoists for the transfer of disabled persons - Requirements and test methods'**. Silvalea Ltd conducts rigorous testing on both the materials and the overall design of a sling following the guidelines set out in the British Standard.

All testing and design technical information is carefully stored and documented and although this information is commercially sensitive if required Silvalea Ltd have a legal and ethical obligation to release technical information to our governing body The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and any other relevant authority body.

Silvalea Ltd manufactures all its products following the internal British standard directive BS EN ISO 9001; which covers both manufacturing and design quality standards. Silvalea Ltd certification number is FM35946.

Alongside these standards all products, where applicable, carry a CE (Conformity European) mark following guidelines set out by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) under the **Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EEC (13 June 2002)**.

Following guidelines by **Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER 5 Dec 1998)** Silvalea Ltd ensure that each product manufactured is safe and fit for purpose, visibly marked with any relevant information required for a safe transfer, including information of the style of the replacement sling, the maximum weight limit, inspection instructions and unique serial numbers for identification. Under the LOLER regulations periodic 6-monthly checks should be undertaken and Silvalea Ltd were one of the first manufacturers to add a 'Service Label' onto their replacement slings to help identify LOLER checks.

Further information on how to inspect your replacement sling, recording your 6-monthly LOLER checks and general advice on caring for your sling can be found in the latest Silvalea Ltd brochure.

*Continued overleaf.....*



Cert No FM 35946  
BS EN ISO 9001

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### Public & Products Liability

Silvalea Ltd insurers provide a combined Public and Products Liability cover to the sum of £10 million in respect of injury or damage in the use of slings supplied by our company, for use on hoists manufactured by major companies. They state that:

*“They are aware that slings and other equipment, manufactured by Silvalea Ltd are designed for and used on hoists and other equipment manufactured by independent companies. This will not prejudice the cover provided and Silvalea Ltd’s legal liability for damage, accident or injury resulting from defects in manufacture or operation of equipment is provided.*

**Silvalea Ltd are able to provide a copy of our latest insurance certificate upon request.**

### Other manufacturers Discontinued Lines

Silvalea Ltd has a vast library of designs stretching back over 15 years and we can manufacture many discontinued lines with a replacement sling, including:

Llewellyns, Nesbitt Evans, AJ Payne, Arjo Mecan aids etc

### Useful Points when Ordering Replacement Slings

Should you be interested in a **true** replacement of the sling you are currently using please be sure to provide Silvalea Ltd with the manufacturers name and style of sling. Silvalea Ltd can produce a replacement of any manufacturers sling at unbeatable prices.

Silvalea Ltd conduct regular research and testing to ensure that Silvalea Ltd replacement slings meet with the requirements necessary of the major leading hoists within the market, some of these hoists are listed below as a guide, however this list is not an exhaustive list as testing and re-development work is continually being undertaken by Silvalea Ltd as and when new hoists enter the market.

Allegro	Days Healthcare (DMA)	Huntleigh (HNE)	Moorcare (Swift lifter)	Talley
Arjo	Doherty	Invacare	Opemed	Taylor's
BHM	Freeway	Liftech	Oxford	Wessex
Caricare Nopac	Guldmann	Liko	Park-Lite Range	Westholme
Carters Invacare	Helping Hands	Locomotor	Promed	
Chiltern Invadex	Horcher	Molift	Spectra Group	

If you require any further information please telephone our dedicated helpline on – 01626 333793

### References / Further Reading

Further guidance can be found at the following:

- Health & Safety Executive www.hse.gov.uk
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency www.mhra.gov.uk
- British Standard www.bsigroup.co.uk
- LOLER Regulations [www.loler.org.uk](http://www.loler.org.uk)
- COT Guidance 3. Page 28 - Section 5.5
- The Guide to the Handling of People. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
**SMITH, JACQUI. (Edited by)**, 1981. *The Guide to the Handling of People*.  
2011 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. Middlesex: BackCare (www.backcare.org.uk)

*As At July 2011*



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