



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Definitions:

- > Working Load (WL) indicates the value of static load at which the product will still function without excessive friction or wear or permanent deformation of components.
- > Load Limit (LL) indicates the value over which the friction of rotary systems becomes too important, movable parts may seize and plastic or metallic components can start to permanently deform.
- > Breaking Load (BL) indicates the value of static load for which a major failure of one or some structural components or the complete destruction of the product can be expected when new. Plastic components may split, rivets may give way, shackles or any other connection parts break and other metallic components may fracture.

Considerations:

Wichard products dispose now of new values of loads to guide the professional or the end-user in the selection of products. Indicated values for Working Loads are equal to 80% of our Load Limit (functional load) quoted in the previous editions of our catalogues, values already specified as not to exceed. Breaking Loads of Wichard products have voluntarily been reviewed against some inappropriate use of our products and this only to ensure the security of the end-users. These changes have no influence on our products quality as they are still manufactured and tested in the same conditions.

Factor of safety :

Before choosing or specifying a particular product, an appropriate factor of safety should be applied to Breaking Loads (BL) to suit each application. For many industrial and safety applications, and for some yachting application, a factor of safety greater than two (2) should be used or may be required by law or other regulations. It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that an appropriate factor of safety is used, and it should allow for safety implications, service life, fatigue (as may be caused by wave action, wind stress or repetitive cyclical loading), type of load, exposure to ultraviolet light, corrosion and stress corrosion (such as in high humidity or high chlorine environment). Even more attention is required when specifying blocks as other factors have to be taken into account such as rotary speed, deflection angle of the rope or the number of wire of the tackle (see page 26 of the present document). Note that a "Safe Working Load" is not specified as this is dependent on the factor of safety, which must be determined by the user relative to each application.

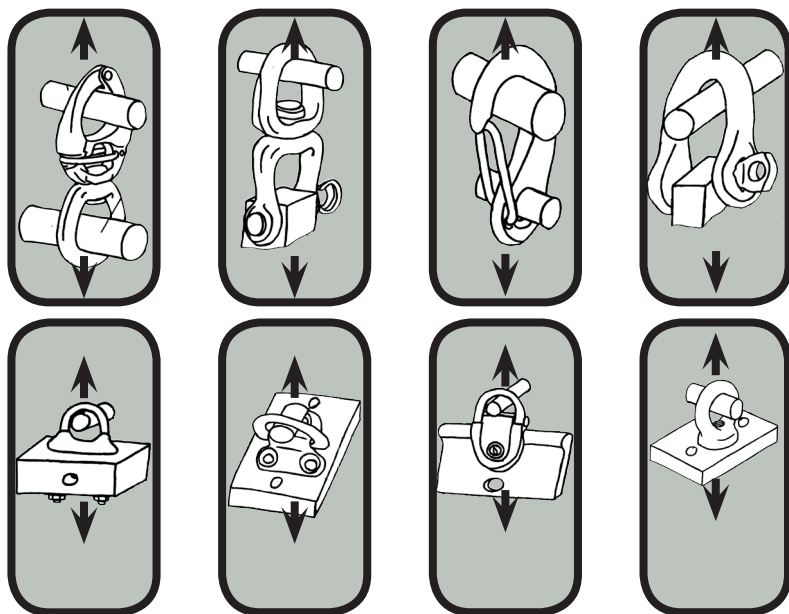
IN ANY CASE, NEVER USE THE PRODUCTS OVER THE WORKING LOAD !

Useful life :

The useful life of any products is determined by the above factors and must be assessed in each application. Thus no guarantee can be provided for product life, dynamic capacities or any other factor due to the variability in usage. In some jurisdictions government regulations require the replacement of rigging components within certain periods of time, usually after three or five years. You must ascertain whether any such regulations affect you and take appropriate steps if you are affected.

Loads tests :

All values of loads indicated in this catalogue are measured according to precise criteria and particular conditions. You can find below the conditions and specifications tests allowing measurement of values we publish.



Maintenance and inspection :

All your marine hardware, blocks and equipments must receive regular inspections to prevent any deformation, wear, cracks or corrosion. Even if your products have had little use, ultraviolet light exposure, wave action, humid or saline environment may cause damage that could affect quality or strength of the equipment. If, after inspection, you are in doubt about the integrity of one of some parts, it is the customer's responsibility to replace the defective components or product to ensure their own safety.

While every precaution is taken in the product design and manufacturing processes of our products to minimize the effects of corrosion or stress corrosion, appropriate preventive or corrective treatments must be carried out to the products after installation.