

26—Ropes, Chains, and Slings

arrangements that have a definite pitch or lay to form a strand. Then, the required number of strands are helically laid or formed around the core, which may be sisal rope, a metallic strand, or independent wire rope core.

The size, number, and arrangement of wires, the number of strands, the lay, and the type of core in a rope are determined largely by the service for which the rope is to be used.

In general, the greater the number of wires in a strand and the greater the number of strands, the more flexible the rope. Hoisting ropes require flexibility and are usually made up of six strands of 19 (16 to 26 wires per strand) and six strands of 37 (27 to 49 wires per strand) wire rope classifications (Fig 26-2).

Depending upon the service conditions, six-strand ropes may have a fiber core (FC), a wire strand core (WSC), or an independent wire rope core (IWRC) and may be either regular lay (wires in the strands are laid in the opposite direction from that of the strands in the rope) or lang lay (wires in the strands are laid in the same direction as that of the strands in the rope).

Eight-strand hoisting ropes can also be found. They are usually 19-wire rope classification with regular lay and fiber core.

Flexibility is not a requirement for guy wires, highway guards, and similar services. Therefore, wire rope of six by seven construction (six strands with seven or eight wires per strand) is suitable. When rope for a particular service is to be selected, it is recommended that engineers of reliable wire rope manufacturers be consulted for the most suitable type.

Some service conditions require rope with special qualities. Fiber cores are affected by temperatures above 212 F. Under such conditions, a metallic core provides greater efficiency and safety. A zinc-coated or stainless steel wire rope effectively resists some types of corrosion. Specific corrosion problems should be referred to a wire rope manufacturer.

Since preformed wire rope does not unravel, it has advantages for certain services, such as for slings and on construction and similar heavy equipment. Preformed rope is less likely to set or kink, and broken wires do not protrude to create a hazard to the

TABLE 26-E

SAFETY FACTORS FOR WIRE HOISTING ROPES FOR ELECTRIC ELEVATORS

Rope Speed (fpm)	Minimum Factor of Safety	
	Passenger	Freight
50	7.60	6.65
250	8.90	7.90
700	11.00	9.80
1100	11.70	10.40
1500	11.90	10.55

Excerpted from Table 212.3 of American National Standard Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters, Escalators, and Moving Walks, A17.1-1971

hands of workmen. However, closer inspection is necessary to detect broken wires.

It is recommended that hoisting rope have at least the strength of the "improved plow steel" grade. For many applications the "extra improved plow steel" grade, which is the greatest in strength, should be used to provide an adequate factor of safety and better service. It resists abrasion, shock, vibration, and fatigue (Table 26-D).

Safety factor for hoisting ropes

The safety factor for hoisting ropes is calculated by dividing the breaking strength of the rope (rated by the manufacturer or determined by testing) by the sum of the maximum weights to be hoisted (static load).

In the case of mine hoisting rope, the maximum weights to be hoisted include the weight of the skip or car and cage, plus the weight

TABLE 26-F

TREAD DIAMETERS OF SHEAVES AND DRUMS FOR WIRE ROPE

Rope Classification	Average Recommended (Times rope diameter)	Minimum
6 × 7	72	42
6 × 19	45	30
6 × 37	27	18
8 × 19	31	21