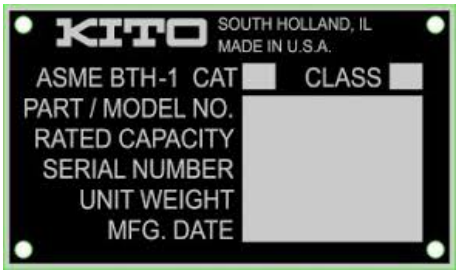
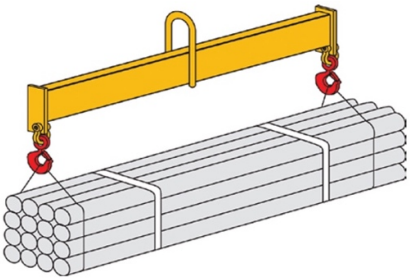
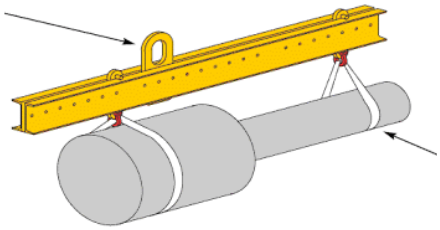
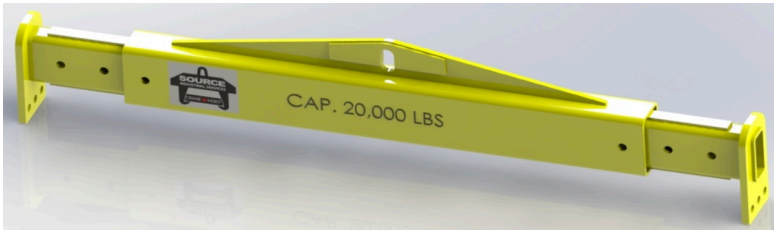
SPREADER BEAM
Tool Box Talk

The objective of this Tool Box Talk is that it can be used as part of a safety meeting that focuses on the use of Spreader Beams in the workplace. The ASME B30.20 standard has been referenced when compiling this document as this is the most recognized standard used in North America for selection, inspection, cautions to personnel, effects of environment, and rigging practices of spreader beams.

Ask members of the meeting to give answers to the following, encouraging participation whether their answers are right or wrong.

LEGISLATION	ANSWER
1) WHAT STANDARDS SHOULD THE SPREADER BEAM COMPLY WITH?	**ASME B30.20 standard.**
2) WHAT OTHER INFORMATION MUST BE REFERENCED?	**Manufacturers Specifications**
3) HOW OFTEN DO PERIODIC INSPECTIONS NEED TO BE CARRIED OUT?	**At least annually (ASME), *but state what your company rules are.***
MARKINGS	**ANSWER**
4) WHAT 8 ITEMS ARE REQUIRED TO BE MARKED ON THE SPREADER BEAM? 	**1. Manufacturer,** **2. Serial Number,** **3. Beam Weight (if over 100 lbs.),** **4. Cold Current (if applicable),** **5. Voltage (if applicable)** **6. Rated Load,** **7. Design Category,** **8. Service Class.**
5) WHAT ALSO NEEDS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE SPREADER BEAM? 	**A product safety label concerning the operating procedures, cautionary language identifying hazards, and methods for accident prevention**. 
APPLICATION	**ANSWER**
6) WHAT ARE THE TEMPERATURE RANGES FOR THE SPREADER BEAM?	**Temperatures exceeding normal ambient temperatures can affect the spreader beam. *The worker must confirm with the manufacturer as they may differ*.**

7) NAME SOME REASONS WHY THE SPREADER BEAM MAY HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE?	**1. Structural members if deformed, cracked or worn, 2. Loose or missing, guards, fasteners, covers, stops or nameplates, 3. Operating mechanisms for mis-adjustments interfering with operation, 4. Missing or illegible operating control markings, 5. Loose bolts or fasteners, 6. Cracked or worn gears, pulleys, sheaves, sprockets, bearings, drive chains, and belts, 7. Excessive wear of friction pads, linkages, and other mechanical parts, 8. Excessive wear at hoist hooking points and load support clevises or pins, 9. Missing or illegible product safety labels required.**
8) HOW MUST THE LOAD BE DISTRIBUTED WHEN USING A SPREADER BEAM? 	**The spreader beam must be positioned above the loads center of gravity to achieve balance.** 
9) WHAT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE SPREADER BEAM IS SECURED TO THE LOAD? 	**Load size, balance, surface cleanliness, flatness, bending and thickness can affect the spreader beams load securement capabilities.** 
10) IF THE SPREADER BEAM IS ADJUSTABLE IN LENGTH OR HAS MULTIPLE ATTACHMENT POINTS, DOES THIS AFFECT THE SPREADER BEAM? 	**If the spreader beam has an adjustable length or multiple suspension points, the rated load of the spreader beam may be affected depending on beam length or which suspension points are used.** 
11) CAN A SPREADER BEAM BE SIDE LOADED?	**Not all spreader beams can be side loaded, and those that can have a rated load reduction when side loading. A spreader beam should not be used to pull/slide a load.**
12) WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO STORE SPREADER BEAM?	**Where they will not be affected by mechanical damage, corrosion, moisture, or adverse temperatures.**