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**Technical Service Bulletin 2019-01**

**RE: Using secondary restraints when using vacuum lifters**

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**To our valued customers and partners:**

Wood's Powr-Grip® takes pride in its products and is committed to providing you with the best service available. One of WPG's corporate goals is to provide education to our customers and partners. With this in mind, we want to address the use of secondary restraints — specifically, lifter straps — when using our vacuum lifters.

**Lifter straps**

WPG designs and builds vacuum lifters based on ASME BTH-1 and ASME B30.20 standards. Based on these standards and our experience, the safety features built into every Powr-Grip lifter provide ample protection against dropping a load when used and maintained according to its Operating Instructions manual. While some may think the use of lifting straps is a good “insurance policy” that helps operators avoid dropping a load, WPG does not recommend their use directly with its lifters for the following reasons:

1. Because each load can be different, connecting points on a lifter for lifting straps cannot be designed appropriately: The configuration of the load and the straps results in too much variability in the applied load. Any use of lifting straps would need to provide support directly to the lifting hook — not the vacuum lifter.
2. Lifting straps cannot be used through an entire lift, because they would interfere with some functions of the vacuum lifter. As such, a rigger may have to be in dangerous positions to install straps after the load is lifted, tilted and/or rotated to its appropriate position, or to remove straps before the load is secured. Furthermore, a rigger could inadvertently interfere with lifter operation while installing or removing straps. Because the load would be suspended at these times, the risk of dropping the load is increased rather than decreased.

**Load strength**

A lifter operator must consult the load manufacturer for appropriate strength of the load. While WPG has some general guidelines for some common solid materials (e.g. glass, aluminum), loads that are combinations of materials (e.g. insulated glass, curtainwall sections) depend on the manufacturing materials and methods.

**Products**

WPG offers several lifters with dual vacuum systems and our exclusive Intelli-Grip® Technology that provide additional warnings and monitoring of vacuum systems that exceed requirements of the ASME standards.

Sincerely,

The team at Wood's Powr-Grip

**THE ORIGINAL & TRUSTED NAME IN VACUUM LIFTING EQUIPMENT**