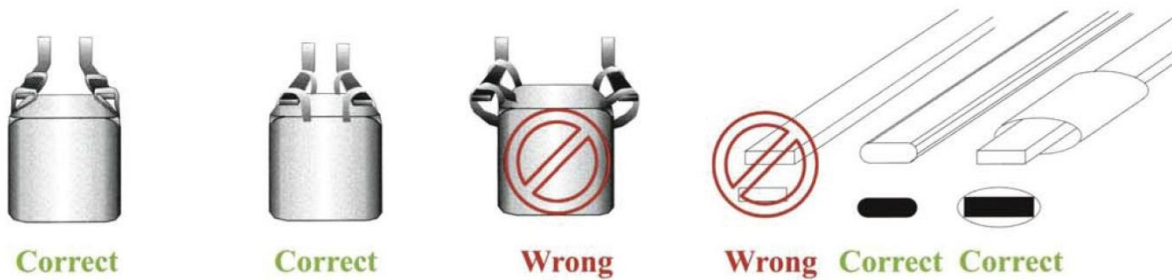




**“HANDLING GUIDELINES FOR
FLEXIBLE INTERMEDIATE BULK
CONTAINERS”**

LIFTING OF FIBCs

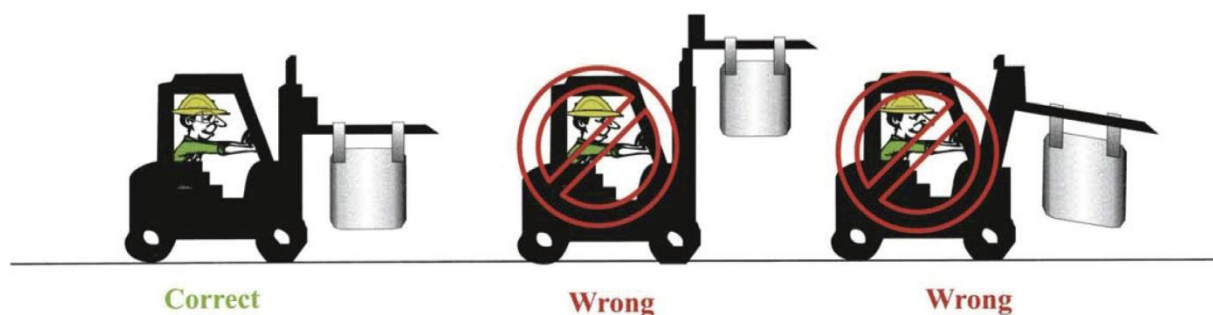
When lifting FIBCs with a fork lift truck, be sure that the fork lift tines are spread correctly to suit the FIBC in use. All lifting loops, sleeves, and or other devices should be vertical, so that no lateral force will be created in the FIBC. Be sure that the lifting loops are not twisted. Fork lift tines should have rounded edges and/or protective covers, to prevent the cutting of the strapping material when lifting. FIBCs should be raised or lowered SMOOTHLY.



HORIZONTAL CARRYING WITH FORK LIFT TRUCKS

The fork lift truck must be suitable for the load to be carried. When travelling with a FIBC hanging from the fork lift tines, there is a danger of the fork truck becoming unstable. The FIBC should be held close to the mast and as low as possible with the mast tilted slightly backwards. Ensure that the FIBC body will not be damaged by the front wheels of the forklift when in motion. Prevent sudden stopping and acceleration when possible, to prevent the FIBC lifting points from “sliding” along the fork tines. The load should never restrict the view of the operator.

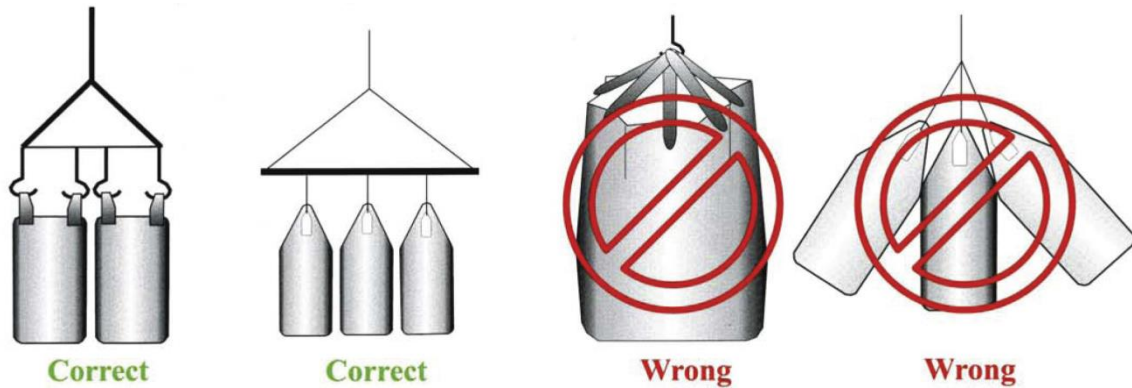
FIBCs must not be dragged. The machine should be brought to a stop before the FIBC is raised or lowered.



HANDLING WITH CRANES OR HOISTS

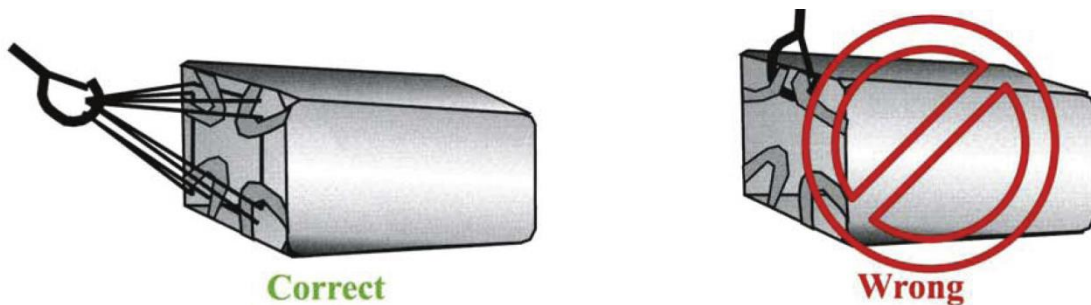
The hooks, spreader bars or other lifting devices used for lifting, should have rounded edges and/or protective coverings. FCS recommends the use of safety hooks with an integrated latch to prevent the hook from accidentally slipping off the lifting straps. Hooks should also have a sufficient radius to prevent squeezing of the straps, causing chaffing.

When the FIBC is suspended, the loops must be vertical, without any twists or knots. As shown below



RIGHTING FIBCS

To right an FIBC that has toppled onto its side, an endless fabric sling, wound through all the lifting loops/strapping, should be used. Any attempt to lift the FIBC using fewer straps than those provided, may result in the strapping being torn off.



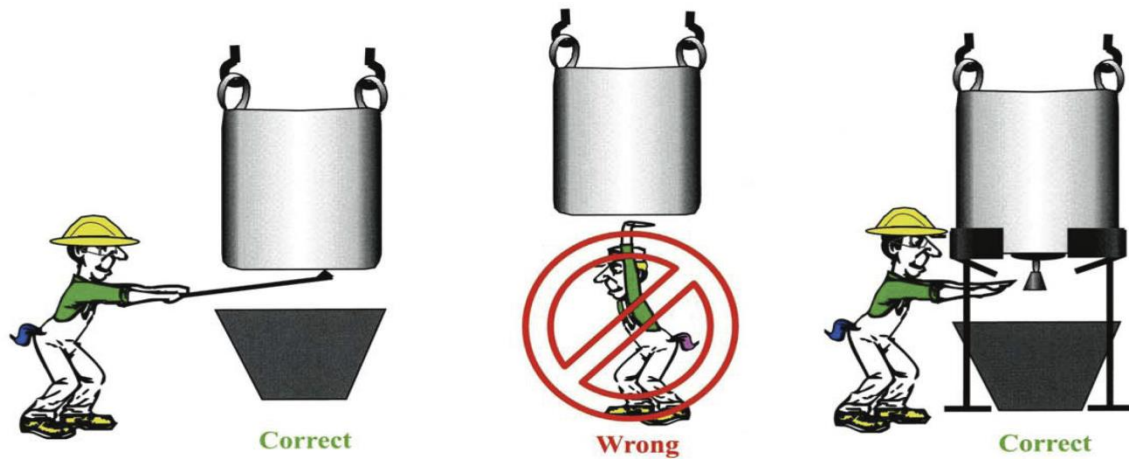
EMPTYING FIBCS

A majority of all FIBCs supplied by FCS are emptied by gravity. When emptying by gravity through a bottom discharge spout, the rate of discharge can be governed by controlling the restricting outlet. Flow can be stopped by lowering the FIBC onto the discharged load.

FIBCs with a plain solid bottom are emptied by cutting the base of the bag. Again, the flow can be stopped/restricted by lowering the bag onto the discharged load.

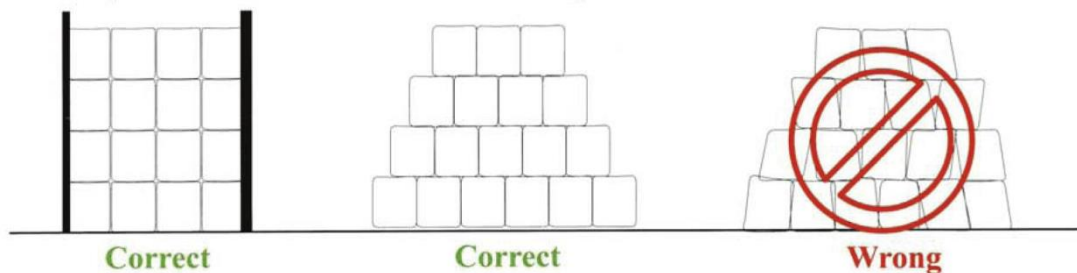
At no point should personnel stand under or place any part of their body beneath an unsupported FIBC during discharge.

A bottom discharge spout should be opened only when the FIBS is suspended over a safety support that will prevent injury to personnel in the event of a failure of the lifting device.



STACKING OF FILLED FIBCs

When stacking filled FIBCs 2 or more high, every effort should be made to ensure that the stack is stable. Ideally when forming a stack it should be made against concrete retaining walls to achieve maximum stability. In most cases where only free stacking is possible, a pyramid method should be used.



STORING OF FILLED FIBCs

If FIBCs are stored outside, ensure the top closure is tied off properly. FIBCs should be covered with a waterproof, U.V. Protected material to avoid water collecting in the top of the FIBC, and also to prevent sun light damage to the bag. U.V Sunlight heavily de grades the polypropylene materials used in the stitching of the FIBC.

DO'S AND DON'T WHEN DEALING WITH FIBCs

DO ✓

- DO observe the handling instructions On the label
- DO ensure that the filled FIBC is stable
- DO close the top inlet correctly

DON'T ☒

- DON'T exceed the safe working load in any circumstances
- DON'T stop or start suddenly during transportation

DO use lifting equipment of suitable capacity
To take the suspended load

DO ensure that the edges of the fork blades
Are smooth, or protected

DO adjust fork lift tines to the correct
Width for the FIBC being handled

DO ensure the fork lift tines are always
Level

DO ensure that crane hook are of adequate
Size and well rounded

DO protect the FIBCs from rain and prolonged
Sun light

DO ensure that FIBCs are adequately secured
During transportation

DO dispose of FIBC's in accordance with
Ecological requirements

DON'T subject FIBCs to sudden lifts or
stops

DON'T allow personnel under a
suspended FIBC

DON'T allow the FIBC to project over
the side of a vehicle or pallet

DON'T tilt the mast of the fork lift
forward

DON'T withdraw fork lift tines prior to
relieving all load from the lifting device

DON'T stack FIBCs unless sure of
stability