



# UPLIFTING NEWS



NEWS FROM THE WEB SLING & TIE DOWN ASSOCIATION

FALL 2024





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**TREVOR WAYCOTT, STREN-FLEX, LLC**

I want to thank all our members who attended our Annual Meeting in Costa Rica. I know it not only was an investment by your company but was also costly to many attendees who brought their spouse and children. I know there were many member companies who were unable to send a representative and all of you were dearly missed. However, for a more difficult destination to travel outside of North America it was a very successful week. My peers on the planning committee and SMG did a great job putting together a condensed schedule that allowed for additional networking opportunities and family fun. The content in the Educational and Technical Sessions continues to be very informative and engaging.

One thing that is becoming a greater focus is labeling regarding Country of Origin (COO). All our industry standards do not address this as it is regulated in the United States by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Most, if not all, manufacturers in the United States label their products with COO. Ensuring that our US based member companies are aware of the specific guidelines outlined by the FTC is very important as incorrect labeling can lead to costly fines and legal costs. Post Covid some of these guidelines have changed and past practices may not adhere to current regulations. I look forward to hearing more about this and having an informative speaker address our membership at an upcoming meeting.

Our fall meeting is around the corner, taking place at the new Sunseeker Resort at Charlotte Harbor in Southwest Florida on September 9th – 11th. We are still putting the finishing touches on the agenda, but we will be going back to our full schedule. I am excited to announce that for our second Educational Session on

## IN THIS ISSUE

- [President's Message](#)
- [Board Nominations](#)
- [Standards & Manuals Update](#)
- [2024 Annual Meeting Recap](#)
- [2024 Fall Meeting](#)
- [Scholarship Program](#)
- [Committee Reports](#)
- [Technical Coordinator's Report](#)
- [Legal Corner](#)
- [Member News](#)

Wednesday we will have Keynote Speaker Jim Morris, aka “The Rookie”, talk to us about his story of making the big leagues at the age of 35 along with other adversities he has overcome. Please go to [www.wstda.com](http://www.wstda.com) and see the new “Registration List” feature under the “Meeting Home” tab introduced in the Spring to know who already has signed up to attend our bi-annual meeting.

As our Association continues to attract new members within and outside North America, we need to continue to explore different venues that allow a broader membership to attend. Who knows, maybe someday in the future we'll have a meeting in Europe or Asia!

In conclusion I would like to personally congratulate our 2024-2025 Scholarship Awardees: Timothy Eric Philcox, and second time winner, MacKenzie Losch. Both are sponsored by member company Hailide America. Please continue to support our Scholarship fund, donations can be made on our website when registering for an upcoming meeting. These scholarships are very impactful to recipients like Timothy and MacKenzie. I look forward to seeing you all in Florida!

# WSTDA BOARD NOMINATIONS

## NOMINATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23, 2024



This year, six current Directors will end their two-year terms on the WSTDA Board, and the President has appointed the Nominating Committee to recruit incumbent and new nominees.

Serving on an industry trade association's board of directors allows you to be part of shaping the future of your field while expanding your professional network. You'll have a direct hand in supporting the establishment of industry standards and driving key initiatives, enhancing both your leadership skills and career connections. Board service offers a rewarding way to give back to the industry.

According to WSTDA policy, principal and alternate representatives of any Regular or Associate Member in good standing are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors, which is elected annually by the members during the Fall Meeting. The officers of the Association, including the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer, are then appointed annually by the Board of Directors.

If you would like to nominate yourself for election to the Board of Directors, use this online form to submit a Board of Directors Application. Applications will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee and must be submitted no later than Friday, August 23 to be considered for the election slate.

[DOWNLOAD THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS](#)

[QUALIFICATION & RESPONSIBILITIES](#)

[APPLY FOR THE WSTDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS](#)

SAVE THE DATE:  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 27-29, 2025 | AUSTIN, TX



Uplifting News is published two times a year by the Web Sling & Tie Down Association

2331 Rock Spring Road  
Forest Hill, MD 21050  
(443) 640-1070 | Fax (443) 640-1031  
[info@wstda.com](mailto:info@wstda.com) | [www.wstda.com](http://www.wstda.com)

## Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Trevor Waycott, Stren-Flex. LLC

### VICE PRESIDENT

John Ketchum, I&I/ Slingmax

### Secretary/Treasurer

Scott Fleming, Uniropo Ltd.

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Amanda Masters, Ben-Mor Cables

### DIRECTORS

Ralph Abato, Doleco USA

Preston Bray, William Barnet and Son, LLC

Gary Distler, Total Tool Supply

Paul Foret, Arabi Sling & Rigging

Robert Hancuff, Carolina Webbing

Stephane Theriault, Faucher Industries

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR, Robert Jasany

LEGAL COUNSEL, Gerard Panaro

## STAFF

KATHLEEN DEMARCO, CAE

*Executive Director*

DANIEL WHITEHEAD

*Associate Director*

CYNTHIA SANCHEZ

*Director of Meetings*

KRISTIN EVANS, QAS

*Program Manager*

RENE BONNER, QAS

*Association Coordinator*

STEPHANIE LEADER, QAS

*Association Coordinator*

No part of this newsletter may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission.

2 / Uplifting News - Fall 2024

# WSTDA RELEASES UPDATED STANDARDS & MANUALS

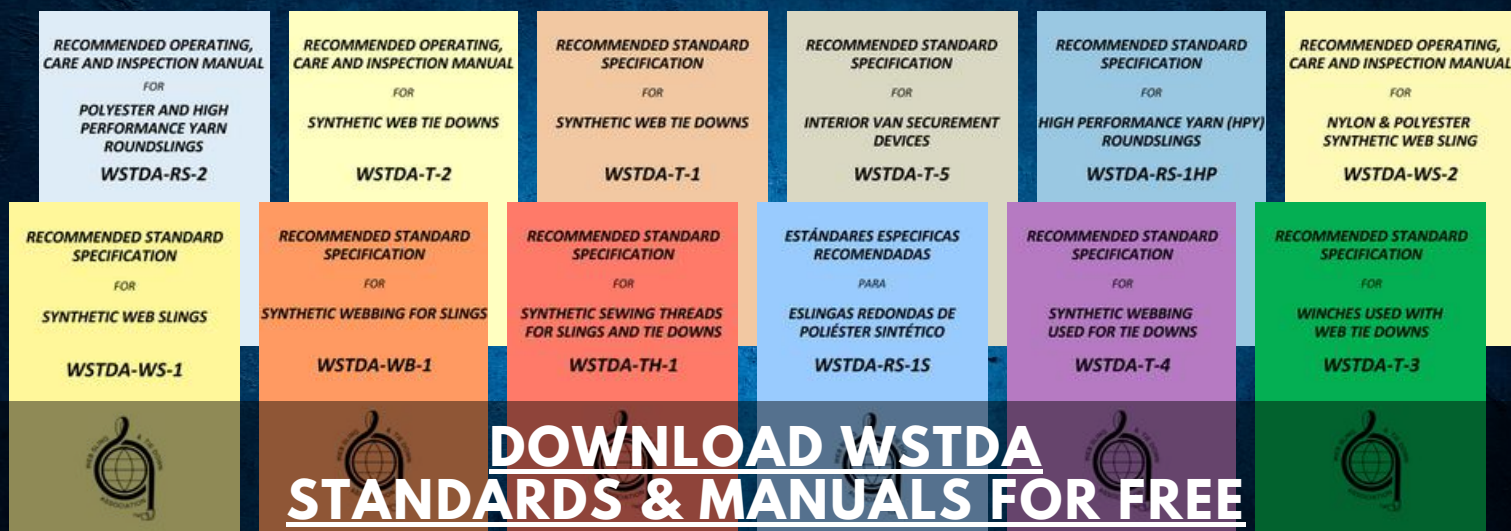
## ACCESS THE LATEST WSTDA STANDARDS & MANUALS FOR FREE!



Revised Recommended Standards WSTDA-WB-1, WSTDA-RS-1HP, and WSTDA-T-6 are now available. WSTDA-WB-1 pertains to class 5 and class 7 synthetic webbing used in the manufacturing of synthetic web slings; WSTDA-RS-1HP applies to roundslings made of high performance yarn; WSTDA-T-6 covers load binders used with chain tie downs. In addition, the WSTDA-T-2 Operating, Care & Inspection Manual for Synthetic Web Tie Downs has also been revised and is now available to the public. All WSTDA Recommended Standards, Operating Manuals and select other publications are available for free download at [www.wstda.com/products](http://www.wstda.com/products).

A new Summary of Substantive Changes is now provided in the revised Standards listing Chapters and Sections that have changed. The Summary is found after the Foreword and before the Table of Contents pages.

WSTDA thanks the leaders and volunteer members of the Web Sling Technical Committee, Roundslings Technical Committee, and Load Securement Technical Committee, and all stakeholders who contributed to the revision of these Recommended Standards and Manual. WSTDA publications are always open for public review and comment at any time; interested parties are invited to submit a formal comment at any time at [www.wstda.com/standardsreview](http://www.wstda.com/standardsreview).



# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

## WSTDA CELEBRATES INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY

The 2024 Annual Meeting held at the picturesque Los Sueños Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort in Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica, was a resounding success. With an impressive turnout and overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, the event underscored the value of in-person gatherings for technical programming, voluntary standards development and networking.

### An Unforgettable Location

Costa Rica's Central Valley, home to the capital San José, is the country's political, economic, and cultural hub, known for its fertile volcanic soil supporting coffee plantations and lush vegetation.

Puntarenas Province on the Pacific coast is famous for its stunning beaches, rich biodiversity, and tourist attractions. Attendees of the event at Los Suenos Marriott resort rated the location as excellent, praising its beauty, dining options, and exceptional service.

### Engaging Programming

The meeting's program content was well-received, with 66% of attendees rating it as excellent. Sessions covered a broad range of topics essential to the industry, from technical advancements to regulatory updates. Highlights included the educational session "Behind the Gavel: Mock Deposition on Synthetic Lifting Failure Liability Case," which was particularly praised for its informative approach and engaging format.

One of the standout features of this year's meeting was its efficient schedule. Designed to maximize both learning and leisure, the agenda ensured that all sessions were completed by noon, giving attendees ample time to enjoy the resort and network informally. This format was highly appreciated, with 89% rating the schedule as excellent. Comments reflected satisfaction with the balance of structured sessions and free time, allowing participants to explore the beautiful surroundings and engage with peers.

The WSTDA Annual Meeting is not only about educational content but also about building connections. The welcome reception and dinner were highly rated, with 82% of attendees marking them as excellent. These events provided a relaxed atmosphere for networking, essential for fostering collaboration and sharing ideas within the industry.



### Looking Ahead

The success of the 2024 Annual Meeting sets a high bar for future events. Attendees expressed a desire for continued innovation in program content and suggested featuring speakers who can provide new insights and perspectives on industry trends. As WSTDA plans its next gathering, incorporating this feedback will be crucial to maintaining the high standards set this year.

The 2024 WSTDA Annual Meeting was a testament to the value of bringing industry professionals together in a conducive environment for learning and networking. The combination of an excellent location, well-structured schedule, and relevant content made this year's meeting a memorable and valuable experience for all attendees. As the WSTDA continues to evolve, the insights and connections gained from these annual meetings will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the industry.



# WSTDA FALL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2024 | CHARLOTTE HARBOR, FLORIDA

- **Invaluable Insights:** Gain a comprehensive understanding of the latest developments in WSTDA Recommended Standards and safety warning products.
- **Engage in Technical Discussions:** Participate in technical committee meetings and forums that directly impact our industry.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Attend sessions led by industry experts on topics crucial to your professional growth.
- **Networking:** Build valuable connections during our welcome reception, networking events, and more.
- **Active Participation:** Play a role in the annual Business Meeting and Board of Directors Elections.

## Schedule At A Glance *\*All session/event names are subject to change*

[Register Online](#)

### Monday, Sept. 9

**9:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
*By Invitation*

**2:15 pm - 3:30 pm**  
Editorial Review Committee  
*By Invitation*

**3:30 pm - 4:30 pm**  
Technical Resource Committee  
*Tentative - By Invitation*

**4:30 pm - 6:00 pm**  
Welcome Reception  
*All Attendees*

### Tuesday, Sept. 10

**8:30 am - 5:30 pm**  
Registration  
*All Attendees*

**8:30 am - 9:15 am**  
First Timers'/New Members'  
Orientation Breakfast  
*By Invitation*

**8:30 am - 9:15 am**  
Breakfast Buffet  
*All Attendees*

**9:30 am - 10:30 am**  
General Session/Annual Business  
Meeting/Board Elections  
*All Attendees*

**10:30 am - 11:00 am**  
Break  
*All Attendees*

### Tuesday, Sept. 10

**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
Educational Session 1  
*All Attendees*

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**  
Buffet Lunch  
*All Attendees*

**1:00 pm - 1:45 pm**  
Web Sling Technical Session  
*All Attendees*

**1:45 pm - 2:00 pm**  
Break  
*All Attendees*

**2:00 pm - 2:45 pm**  
Load Securement Technical  
Session  
*All Attendees*

**2:45 pm - 3:00 pm**  
Break  
*All Attendees*

**3:00 pm - 4:15 pm**  
Technical Committee Meeting  
*All Attendees - Observers Welcome*

**5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**  
Networking Reception  
*All Attendees*

### Wednesday, Sept. 11

**8:00 am - 9:00 am**  
Breakfast  
*All Attendees*

**9:00 am - 9:45 am**  
Round Sling Technical Session  
*All Attendees*

### Wednesday, Sept. 11

**9:45 am - 10:00 am**  
Break  
*All Attendees*

**10:00 am - 10:45 am**  
Testing Technical Session  
*All Attendees*

**10:45 am - 11:00 am**  
Break  
*All Attendees*

**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
Keynote Speaker: Jim "The  
Rookie" Morris  
*All Attendees*

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**  
Buffet Lunch  
*All Attendees*

**1:15 pm - 2:00 pm**  
Sling & Tie Down Protection  
Technical Session  
*All Attendees*

**2:00 pm - 2:15 pm**  
Break  
*All Attendees*

**2:15 pm - 3:15 pm**  
Technical Committee Meeting  
*All Attendees - Observers Welcome*

**3:15 pm - 4:30 pm**  
Board & Committee Chairs'  
Meeting  
*By Invitation*

**6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**  
Reception/Dinner/Awards  
*All Attendees*

WSTDA has negotiated special discounted hotel room rates. The Sunseeker Resort is offering a special rate of \$224/night for single/double rooms to WSTDA meeting attendees. WSTDA's discounted room rate is available for up to three nights prior to and following the Fall Meeting dates, based on availability. The daily resort fee of \$25.00 a night has been waived for booking within our block. Your patronage of the official WSTDA meeting site makes it possible for WSTDA to secure meeting space needed for this event at a greatly reduced cost, thereby helping to keep registration fees low for attendees.

Contact [Cynthia Sanchez](#) for assistance booking your hotel room.



## EDUCATIONAL SESSION



### **Keynote Speaker – Jim “The Rookie” Morris** Mike Riggs

Jim Morris was a high school science teacher and coach in west Texas who miraculously made it the Major Leagues at the age of 35. His life story made cinematic history with the heartwarming and unforgettable Disney movie, *The Rookie*, starring Dennis Quaid. [Learn more](#) and [Play The Rookie movie trailer](#).

***Thank You To Our Sponsor!***



# WSTDA AWARDS TWO \$3,000 EDUCATION GRANTS

**19 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM 15 WSTDA MEMBER COMPANY SPONSORS.**



**Mackenzie Ann Losch**, of Covington, Georgia, is a rising Sophomore attending the Honors College at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, and is earning this scholarship award for a second year in a row. She is working on a double major in Dance K12 Education and Psychology. Losch is sponsored by **WSTDA Member Hailide America, Inc.'s Torry Losch**, who is Chief Commercial Officer based in Alpharetta, Georgia.

In Losch's first year of college, she served as the Fundraising Chair of the National Dance Education Organization at the U of SC, as well as taken on a leadership role within her sorority by chairing the Green Team, which helps provide education on environmental issues. Taking 18 credit hours in both semesters of Freshman year, she earned Dean's List the first semester and President's List the second semester.

In high school, Losch served as the President of the Junior Classical League, Treasurer and Executive Board Member of the ECO Eagles, and Historian with the National Beta Club. She's also volunteered with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for much of her life and was selected as one of three to represent the state of Georgia to lawmakers on Capitol Hill to advocate for those with Cystic Fibrosis.

Losch has goals of furthering her education by pursuing a Masters of Speech Language Pathology and becoming a licensed speech therapist.

## SAVE THE DATE 2025 FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 6-8, 2025 | TORONTO, CANADA



**RIBBON WEBBING CORP.**  
Narrow Fabrics Manufacturer

Quality Webbing  
Competitive Prices  
Customized to Your Needs

[www.ribbonwebbing.com](http://www.ribbonwebbing.com)

**Oppermann**

Domestic Manufacturer of:

- Sling Webbing
- Roundsling Cover
- Textured Protective Sleeve
- Tie Down Webbing

Please Call  
**(864) 331-0800**

**JULI SLING CO., LTD**

Customized to Your Need

[www.julislings.com](http://www.julislings.com)  
[liyue@julislings.com](mailto:liyue@julislings.com)

**CAROLINA WEBBING**

50 Years of Manufacturing Excellence

Polyester/Nylon Sling Webbing  
Tie Down Webbing  
Slingmax® Covermax® Sleeves  
Polyester Round Sling Sleeves  
Protective Sleeves and Wear Pad

For Sales Inquiries Contact:  
[sales@carolinawebbing.com](mailto:sales@carolinawebbing.com)  
[www.carolinawebbing.com](http://www.carolinawebbing.com)  
A Division of Starline Manufacturing, LLC

**ASR**  
**ARABI SLING & RIGGING**

A Leading Manufacturer of  
Web Slings / Polyester Roundslings  
High Performance Roundslings  
Tie-Downs / Recovery Straps  
Flow Line Restraints / Cargo Nets

[arabislings.com](http://arabislings.com) | 800.445.1123



**Timothy Eric Philcox**, of Greenwood, South Carolina, is going into his first year at Anderson University in Anderson, SC, where he plans to pursue majoring in Biochemistry and Christian Studies. Philcox is sponsored by **WSTDA Member Hailide America, Inc.'s Todd Philcox**, who is Sales Manager based in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Philcox's interest in Biochemistry and Christian Studies began at a young age. Hiking, camping, fishing, kayaking and going to the zoo with his family led to a love of the natural sciences. His love of learning has led him to explore and enjoy the complexities of chemistry, calculus, and reading the Bible. He looks forward to building close relationships with his professors at Anderson University, and gain further understanding through research, internships, and high-level classes.

Philcox participated in swimming in both his high school team and club team. His most recent season with the club team he held the role of coach, and was instrumental in the team's most successful championship season in years, setting both personal and team records. He also coached the club team preparatory group working with 5-10 year-olds, teaching strokes and explaining drills.

After undergrad, Philcox plans to pursue biochemical research and attend graduate school for a Masters of Divinity. He aspires to help lead a church while continuing biochemical research.



## Support the WSTDA Scholarship Program

Supporting the WSTDA Scholarship Program is a fulfilling endeavor. Your contribution aids diligent and driven students in achieving their dreams and aspirations. Your donation might just play a role in nurturing the future visionaries and leaders of our world!

Please note that while donations to the WSTDA Scholarship Program are currently not eligible for tax deductions as charitable contributions, they may be potentially deductible as a business expense. We recommend seeking advice from your tax advisor for more information.

*click here!*



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## WEB SLING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

CHAIR: ROBERT HANCUFF & CO-CHAIR: FRED AMBLI

WSTDA WB-1 2024 Revision draft has been passed along to the board of directors for review after completion of the public comment phase. We anticipate publication before the end of this year.

We are still working to complete review of WS-1. We are hoping to have the review and final changes completed by the end of this year or early next year at the latest. We are currently referencing the newest revision of WSTDA RS-1HP standard to ensure that we cover areas we may have overlooked, and to maintain consistency.

Our WSTC regular (four to five times annually) Zoom meeting continues to be beneficial in accelerating our reviews and updates to the standards.

Our work session during the Fall meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10th at 1:00 PM. We have an interesting program planned with our newest WSTC member

Tony Dotto. Tony joins us from “The Crane School” in Tampa and has been involved in rigging his entire working life. Not only are we happy to have Tony join us on the committee, but we are looking forward to hearing about his experiences and sharing his knowledge.

The Web Sling Technical Committee welcomes and encourages all recommendations for discussion topics surrounding synthetic web slings and current projects of the Committee. Submit your questions or discussion topic suggestions at any time to:

Bob Hancuff [bhancuff@carolinawebbing.com](mailto:bhancuff@carolinawebbing.com)

Chairman, WSTC

Fred Ambli [fred@liftpro.com](mailto:fred@liftpro.com)

Co-Chair, WSTC

## TESTING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

CHAIR: SAM SOCOLOW & CO-CHAIR: TROY RAINES, JR.

The Testing Committee is happy to report significant progress with the Sling Protection Testing Fixture Project. The committee has finalized the design, and WSTDA has issued the purchase orders. The components have been manufactured and successfully assembled. We want to thank our members for the generous donations of slings, sling protectors, and webbing. With these donations, we verified our proof of concept with some initial testing. Verification testing of the different radii and orientations of the test block was rigorously conducted on July 31st at Ashley Sling in Austell, Georgia. The initial results have exceeded expectations and will be presented at the fall meeting. The committee will convene multiple times before the fall meeting to discuss the results and decisively determine the next steps for writing test protocols and procedures for a sling protection testing standard.



During the Spring Meeting, information related to soft shackles was presented, followed by some group discussion. A suppliers listing was provided and some of the applications for which they are being marketed, which was fairly varied depending on the supplier, was also discussed. We noted that only some of the suppliers allowed their use for lifting and provided ratings accordingly. Some others specifically prohibited use of their soft shackles for lifting applications. Also, a handful of sample roundslings connected to soft shackles had been tested to destruction and the results were presented. As the direct interconnection of roundslings shares some similar characteristics, the results were also compared with the results of prior testing similarly sized roundslings that were interconnected without the use of any hardware.

At this point, we can perhaps simply note that this topic of connecting roundslings with what we can call “soft connections”, without any hardware, will likely remain on our radar for further upcoming review soon. Interestingly, this discussion also led to one comment, revealing that one group of products recently presented for review to ASME were “detachable synthetic slings”, described essentially as being soft shackles of longer lengths that allow their use as slings, but which do not require the need for any hardware.

With regard to older news, on the status of documents under review, we report that a proposed publication date in August has now being set for the release of RS-1HP update. If this news has not already been released to you prior to your getting this report, you can expect to receive news of its release sometime prior to the fall meeting.

The Roundsling Technical Committee is scheduling to hold one online meeting in August. During this session we will discuss both the proposed topics for presentation at the Fall Meeting, and the process in general of selecting presenters for meetings. We are looking to implement a plan that will require input from the entire committee.

As our primary topic for upcoming document review, we will also be initiating our next update review to the RS-1 Standard Specification. During our next sessions we will again refocus efforts on putting forth new language covering the topic of design and rating practices for multi-leg roundslings.

### Have you recently learned a handy new tip that can also help your peers?

Share your tip using the QR code and help us promote knowledge sharing throughout the rigging and load securement industry. You may just find your tip featured in an upcoming issue of Lift & Secure!

TECH TIPS



### Do you have a burning question? Perhaps a long standing debate? Or an open inquiry from the field?

Use the QR code to send us your question and we'll ask the experts serving on WSTDA's technical committees to chime in on your question. You may just find an answer in an upcoming issue of Lift & Secure!

ASK THE PROS



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## LOAD SECUREMENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

CHAIR: STEPHANE THERIAULT & CO-CHAIR: TIM SANDERS

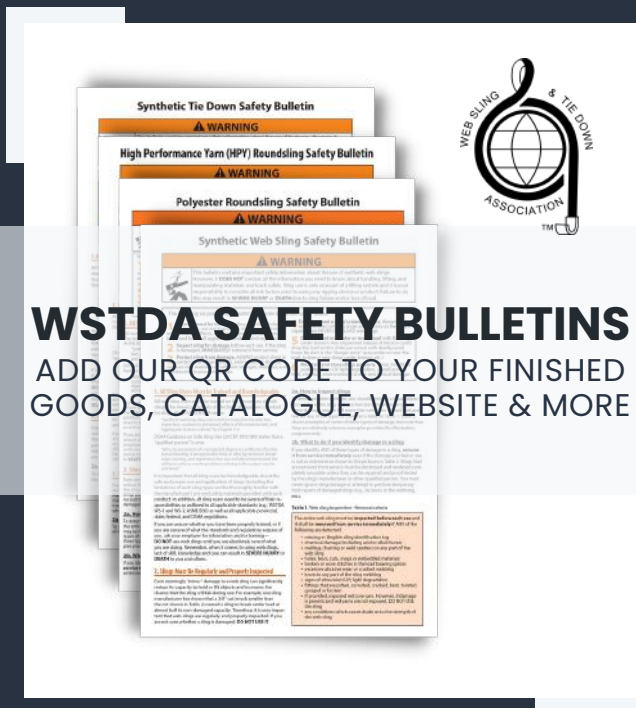
The Committee's Load Securement Technical Session during the 2024 Annual Meeting in Costa Rica focused on the news that for the first time in US history, the federal government is considering publishing safety regulations for interior cargo securement, through the incorporation of WSTDA-T-5 *Recommended Standard Specification for Interior Van Securement* in the US Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulations. When first published in 2020, the T-5 standard was presented by WSTDA to FMCSA, with a petition for rulemaking; in 2024, the petition was granted.

Thus begins a potentially years-long process of US federal regulation amendment, involving opportunities for public input and comment, and for advocacy of the incorporation of the WSTDA-T-5 standard in US federal motor safety regulations. WSTDA plans to advocate for the inclusion of T-5 as the accepted Standard in US federal regulations and will assist individual Member companies in doing so if they wish.

Also, as announced in this newsletter, the Committee has also just published new revisions of the following WSTDA Recommended Standard Specifications, available for free download on [www.wstda.com](http://www.wstda.com):

- WSTDA-T-6: (Load Binder Standard)
- WSTDA-T-2: (Web Tie Down Manual)

Of the other recommended standards that are under the responsibility of the Load Securement Technical Committee, the T-4 (Webbing for Tie Downs) will be subject to review next by the Technical Committee, which may hold an in-person meeting (with non-Committee observers welcome to attend) at the 2024 Fall Meeting in Florida this September.



The image shows a stack of four safety bulletins from WSTDA. The top one is titled 'Synthetic Tie Down Safety Bulletin' and features a 'WARNING' icon. Below it are 'High Performance Yarn (HPY) Roundslings Safety Bulletin', 'Polyester Roundslings Safety Bulletin', and 'Synthetic Web Sling Safety Bulletin', each also with a 'WARNING' icon. To the right of the stack is the WSTDA logo, which consists of a globe with a rope tied around it, and the text 'WEB SLING & TIE DOWN ASSOCIATION' around the globe.

**WSTDA SAFETY BULLETINS**  
ADD OUR QR CODE TO YOUR FINISHED GOODS, CATALOGUE, WEBSITE & MORE

Our member benefit allows all current members access to our new **QR code**, which can be placed on your finished goods, catalogue, website, and so much more. Provide your customers with **instant access to WSTDA-copyrighted Safety Bulletins in English, Spanish and French**, just by pulling their cell phone out, wherever they are.

This member benefit is also included **FREE** with your annual membership dues. So that is no cost to you to provide the QR code to users of your goods, and no cost to users of your goods to view/download WSTDA Safety Bulletins.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# TECHNICAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Robert Jasany

## **Committee Work in Action – No Small Task**

One of the primary strengths of WSTDA lies with its widely known Technical Committees and standing committee. At present, there are five (5) Product related Technical Committees namely the Web Sling Technical Committee, Roundsling Technical Committee, Load Securement Technical Committee, Testing Technical Committee and the Sling & Tie Down Protection Technical Committee. These committees have the responsibility for the development and periodic review each of the WSTDA recommended standard specifications that are assigned under their leadership, based upon product category, conduct research to update and add information as found necessary and to make known to the public that changes to the standard are contemplated through a Public Review process. This is no small task as WSTDA currently publishes ten (10) Recommended Standard Specifications plus a Webbing Strength & Elongation Test Method.

This number has increased considerably over the years since the first web sling recommended standard was published in 1978. New standards are researched and developed as the industry need arises. New standards may take five (5) years or longer to develop while updates can take up to three (3) years once started.

In addition to the development and periodic review of the recommended standards, three of the technical committees, Web Sling, Roundsling and Load Securement carry the responsibility to review and update as needed the Operating, Care & Inspection Manuals for their specific product category. This is usually accomplished following an update to the particular recommended standard specification. Like with the standards, the committee members work as a team to share knowledge found by practical and reported information from within the industry.

Another valued standing committee to the Association is the Technical Resource Committee, originally known as the Legal Resource Committee. This committee finalized what is named the Global Definitions Listing. A few short years ago WSTDA established a practice to use the same worded definitions across all its standards, where technically correct and feasible. To do so, uniform agreement had to be reached by each of the technical committees on what standardized wording was to be used to describe each of the words shown in the definition section of each standard. This listing is considered a living document having periodic additions and updates.

The Technical Resource Committee is also responsible for the review, research and periodic update to the information provided on our four (4) Safety Bulletins namely the Web Sling, Polyester Roundsling, High Performance Yarn Roundsling and Tie Downs as well as the Warning Labels for each of these product types. In addition to their own research this committee consults with our Human Factors Expert to ensure the accuracy and proper presentation of the information on the Safety Bulletins and Warning Labels and complies with accepted standards. At the time of product review, this committee also works in close liaison with the Technical Committees for update to these products.

In addition to the biannual meetings of the WSTDA, committees regularly meet virtually to accomplish the work on each agenda.

For more information pertaining to the WSTDA Recommended Standard Specifications and Operating, Care and Inspection Manuals go to [www.wstda.com](http://www.wstda.com).

### Country of Origin Rules

The rules on “country of origin” are mind-numbingly complicated and you really need professional, competent, expert advice to guide you through them,[1] but this article will attempt as plain, simple and short summary as possible, given the complexity of the situation. The following article is taken virtually verbatim from “What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About: U.S. Rules of Origin, Preferential and Non-Preferential Rules of Origin”, last revised May 2004 and available [here](#).

The country of origin of merchandise imported into the customs territory of the United States (the fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) is important for several reasons. The country of origin of merchandise can affect, among other things, the rate of duty, the eligibility for special programs, admissibility, quota, procurement by government agencies and marking requirements.

The first distinction is between “non-preferential” and “preferential” rules of origin. “Non-preferential” rules are those that generally apply to merchandise in the absence of bilateral or multilateral trade agreements. On the other hand, “preferential” rules are those that apply to merchandise to determine eligibility for special treatment under various trade agreements or special legislation. Some of the rules use a “tariff-shift” (or “change in tariff classification”) method, which is based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (“Harmonized System”). The Harmonized System forms the core of the U.S. tariff system, the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTSUS”). The rules of origin discussed below are administered by the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

### **NON-PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN**

All U.S. non-preferential rules of origin schemes employ the “wholly obtained” criterion for goods that are wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of a particular country.

On the other hand, all U.S. non-preferential rules of origin schemes employ the “substantial transformation” criterion for goods that consist in whole or in part of materials from more than one country. In the majority of the non-preferential schemes, the substantial transformation criterion is applied on a case-by-case basis, and it is based on a change in name/character/use method (i.e., an article that consists in whole or in part of materials from more than one country is a product of the country in which it has been substantially transformed into a new and different article of commerce with a name, character, and use distinct from that of the article or articles from which it was so transformed).

A rules of origin scheme for textiles and textile products exists that employs the substantial transformation criterion. It is based on a tariff-shift method. Another rules of origin scheme for products imported from Canada or Mexico exists that also employs the substantial transformation criterion. It is also based on a tariff-shift method.

### **OUTLINE OF U.S. NON-PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN**

#### Most-Favored-Nation or Normal-Trade-Relations Treatment

There is a rules of origin scheme that is used to determine the country of origin of a product for purposes of most-favored-nation or normal-trade-relations (“NTR”) duty treatment. It employs the “wholly obtained” criterion for goods that are wholly the growth, product, or

manufacture of a particular country. On the other hand, it employs the “substantial transformation” criterion for goods that consist in whole or in part of materials from more than one country.

#### Country of Origin Marking

There are two sets of rules of origin schemes for country of origin marking purposes. The first scheme is used to determine the country of origin of a product for all countries except Canada and Mexico. It employs a rules of origin approach. The second scheme is based on Annex 311 to the North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”).[1] It is used for products imported into the United States from Canada or Mexico. For goods that consist in whole or in part of materials from more than one country, this scheme employs the substantial transformation criterion, which is expressed or based exclusively on a tariff-shift method.

#### Government Procurement

There is a rules of origin scheme that is used to determine the country of origin for government procurement for the purpose of granting waivers of certain “Buy American” restrictions in U.S. laws or practice for products for eligible countries. For purposes of this scheme, an article is a product of a country or instrumentality only if:

- it is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of that country or instrumentality, or
- in the case of an article which consists in whole or in part of materials from another country or instrumentality, it has been substantially transformed into a new and different article of commerce with a name, character, or use distinct from which it was so transformed.

### Textile and Textile Products

There is a rules of origin scheme that is used to determine the country of origin for textiles and textile products for, among other things, the application of quotas. It employs the substantial transformation criterion which is expressed or based exclusively on a tariff-shift method and covers the headings and chapters of the Harmonized System relevant to textile and textile products.

### **PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN**

U.S. preferential rules of origin schemes are used for more than a dozen special tariff programs (e.g., Africa, Automotive products, Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, Insular possessions of the US, West Bank, Gaza Strip, Israel, Chile, Jordan, Singapore). Under these preferential programs, qualifying goods may enter the customs territory of the United States free of duty or at reduced rates of duty.

### **OUTLINE OF U.S. NON-PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN**

#### Generalized System of Preferences

The Generalized System of Preferences (“GSP”) is a program that provides for the duty free entry of all but a few classes of merchandise from the designated beneficiary developing countries or territories around the world. It is intended to encourage economic growth and development in those countries. Duty free treatment is granted under the GSP to any otherwise eligible article that is the growth, product, or manufacture of a designated beneficiary developing country if:

- That article is imported directly from a beneficiary developing country into the U.S. customs territory and
- The sum of (1) the cost or value of materials produced in that beneficiary developing country (or produced in one or more members of an association of countries

treated as one country under the GSP), plus (2) the direct costs of processing operations performed in that beneficiary developing country (or in one or members of an association of countries treated as one country under the GSP), is at least 35 percent of the appraised value of the article.

#### Eligible Products & Preferential Rates of Duty in the HTSUS

The HTSUS lists the eligible products and preferential rates of duty throughout the schedule for particular special tariff programs. The rates of duty for the preferential tariff programs are generally found in the column 1 sub-column entitled “Special.” A summary of the symbols used in the “Special” sub-column and a list of the programs they represent may be found in General Note 3(c) to the HTSUS. Some articles may be subject to temporary modifications found in Chapter 99, HTSUS. As indicated above, the goods must meet the requirements for the particular special tariff program in order to be eligible for the applicable preferential rate of duty.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR CORRECT DETERMINATION OF ORIGIN**

Importers of record are required to use “reasonable care” to declare the correct country of origin of imported goods. CBP officials at CBP ports of entry are responsible for verifying the accuracy of those declarations during the clearance of goods through customs. That responsibility is discharged and monitored through the review of pertinent documents (or electronically transmitted information) and through selected audits of the merchandise and the importer. Pertinent entry documents (which may include declarations) are used to declare the country of origin of a good for non-preferential rules of origin purposes. Incorrect country of origin information may lead to delays and detentions and, if the country of origin affects admissibility, to denials of entry. In addition, negligent or fraudulent country of origin information can lead to monetary penalties or, in certain cases, to criminal sanctions.

[CONTINUE READING >>](#)

## WSTDA WEBSITE FEATURE: MEMBER PROFILES



WSTDA Member organizations are urged to create their own Member Profile at [www.wstda.com](http://www.wstda.com). A Member Profile is a concise, informative piece with photos, outlining your business, customers, facilities, personnel, and special activities.

All Regular, Associate, and Affiliate Members are invited to fill out a short form, enabling WSTDA staff to craft a Member Profile for your company. Feel free to include photos. To secure a spot for your company's Member Profile feature, promptly complete and submit the form today.

[Check out existing profiles >>](#)

# MEMBER NEWS

## Bishop Lifting Acquires Bairstow Lifting Products, Expands Footprint into Georgia

Bishop Lifting (Bishop), a portfolio company of Altamont Capital Partners (Altamont), today announced the completed acquisition of Bairstow Lifting Products (Bairstow), headquartered in Atlanta. Bairstow, owned by brothers Robert and Andy Bairstow, was founded by their father, Bob Bairstow, in 1960 as a local wire rope fabricating shop. Since then, the company has expanded its offerings and services to become a leading supplier of rigging products and fall protection solutions in a major metropolitan area serving various end markets, including construction, entertainment, utility, automotive, and marine.

[Learn more >>](#)



Submitted by:  
Bishop Lifting Products  
[www.lifting.com](http://www.lifting.com)

## Columbus McKinnon Announces First-of-Its-Kind Battery-Powered Chain Hoist Combining Industry-Leading Hoist and Battery Technology

The BatteryStar is powered by Milwaukee Tool's industry leading M18™ REDLITHIUM™ Battery. This is the same battery customers are already using on job sites around the world, providing convenience and compatibility with well-known Milwaukee-brand tools customers rely on day in and day out. Designed to reduce downtime, the BatteryStar allows an operator to replace the battery quickly and easily for minimal operation interruption.

[Learn more >>](#)



Submitted by:  
Columbus McKinnon Corp.  
[www.cmco.com](http://www.cmco.com)

## Unveiling the Future: We are Kinedyne

Kinedyne is excited to present our new Company Overview Video. Join us for an immersive journey into the heart of our innovative solutions, company character, and unique culture. Discover who we are and why we are dedicated to manufacturing the highest quality cargo control products. When you choose Kinedyne, you can be confident you are investing in top-notch solutions that protect not just goods, but also well-being.

Kinedyne – proof that you can buy peace of mind.

[Watch Now >>](#)



Submitted by:  
Kinedyne LLC  
[www.kinedyne.com](http://www.kinedyne.com)

## MURTRALEON Expands to North America: New San Antonio Branch Now Open

We at MURTRALEON are excited to announce the opening of Murtra Industries USA, a new branch dedicated to serving our customers in the North American market. Located in San Antonio, TX, which is specialized in providing high-quality polypropylene multifilament yarns, webbing, slings, and lashing systems. This expansion marks a significant step in our commitment to better serve our clients and meet the growing demand in the region. We are pleased to share Juan Rios will be heading this project. For any inquiry or assistance, please contact us on (210) 687-2346 or email at [jrios@murtra-us.com](mailto:jrios@murtra-us.com). Thank you for your continued support.

Submitted by:  
Murtraleon SA DE CV  
[www.murtraleon.com](http://www.murtraleon.com)



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



# WSTDA MEMBERSHIP

Every day around the globe, goods and materials are hoisted, lowered and carried by slings made from synthetic web. Synthetic web is also used for tie downs used to restrain cargo.

The Web Sling & Tie Down Association (WSTDA) is the largest non-profit technical organization dedicated to the safe operation of all synthetic web slings and tie downs. Comprised primarily of sling and tie down manufacturers, WSTDA membership also includes fiber suppliers, weavers, testing companies, government enforcement agencies and other interested parties from countries around the world. WSTDA is recognized internationally, with members from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The WSTDA's core mission is the development and promotion of voluntary Recommended Standard Specifications covering the most common synthetic web lifting and tie down products. The current Standards cover construction, selection, use and maintenance of Synthetic Webbing, Thread, Web Slings, Round Slings, Tie Downs and Chain Binders.

If you manufacture or distribute synthetic web products to hoist, lower, carry or restrain cargo, membership in the Web Sling & Tie Down Association is vital to your business.

## KEY BENEFITS

- Active participation in technical committees
- A forum for education & networking
- Access to all WSTDA products & services at deeply-discounted member pricing
- WSTDA Scholarship Program
- WSTDA Lift & Secure Magazine
- Participation in LinkedIn Group
- WSTDA Meetings
- Industry Standard/Publications

Visit our [membership section](#) of our website to learn more and join today!

# YOUR NEWS CAN BE IN OUR SPRING ISSUE

The Member News section focuses on timely updates on WSTDA-Member organizations: company announcements, new employees/promotions, awards given or received, acquisitions/mergers, and the like. Member News is not meant for commercial/ product/service/sales announcements.

### Submission Guidelines:

- Limit one submission per company
- Press release/announcement must be in Word format
- Word count limit is 200 words and WSTDA retains the right to edit
- May include a hyperlink to member's website/press release, etc.
- Company logos and photo(s) may also be submitted, but are limited to space availability

Keep an eye on your mailbox on how to submit your news later in 2025!



Web Sling & Tie Down Association  
2331 Rock Spring Road  
Forest Hill, MD 21050  
(443) 640-1070 | [info@wstda.com](mailto:info@wstda.com)