



sackmaker
J&HM DICKSON LTD.

HELIBAG®



SKY LIFTING SYSTEM

Operator Guidelines for safe use



Introduction

Helibag® is a FIBC (Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container) specifically designed for the movement of loose products by helicopter. They are designed for multi tripping loads of up to 1200 kilos per bag.

The bag design is tested and certified to **ISO 21898**

Helibags® are made from either white or black heavy duty UV protected woven fabric. They have long straps to ensure ease of attachment, lifting and allow the bag to fly aerodynamically.

We set out this guide to assist customers and increase awareness and safety. It should not be used in conjunction with bags which do not bear our safety labels.

We strongly recommend standard FIBC's or "Builders type" bags are NOT used for aircraft lifting operations as short loop bags are not certified for single point lifting.

Alan Dickson
Managing Director

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Filling & Lifting Helibags

CHECKLIST

- ✓ Bag has the correct Helibag® safety label.
- ✓ For damage: Cuts, nicks & tears in fabric, loops or stitching.
- ✓ Hooks, tines & handling equipment for correct adjustment, burrs or sharp edges.
- ✓ Lift hooks have an integrated safety latch to avoid slipping.
- ✓ Hook has a sufficiently large radius to avoid squeezing loops.

ALWAYS

- ✓ Be aware even new bags can be damaged in transit or storage.
- ✓ Remember damage can occur as a result of UV degradation.
- ✓ Avoid shock loading - Load evenly & lift vertically with all four loops.
- ✓ Ensure contents will not blow out of the bag during flight.
- ✓ Recover fallen bags using a sling through all 4 loops.
- ✓ Consider the possibility and effects of static electricity during operations.
- ✓ Dispose of Helibags in accordance with best environmental practice

DO NOT

- X Subject the bag to excessive lateral or pendular forces when lifting.
- X Load over 1200kgs or with large rocks which may point load & damage fabric
- X Allow persons to stand under bags during lifting operations.
- X Drop bags from height, tip over, "load level" or drag bags using the loops.
- X Multi load too many bags on a single hook.



General Handling of Helibags®

Helibags are unfortunately not indestructible!

They are made of robust materials but can be damaged by the following:

- Rough handling & multi loading on single hooks
- Large rocks/boulders with edges which may point load /tear fabric
- Exceeding Safe Working Load
- Dragging, tipping, drop loading on top of side panels or lifting incorrectly
- Abrasion and general wear & tear
- Exposure to UV light, wind & rain (especially when left in exposed locations)
- Exposure to extremely high and low temperatures
- Contact with sharp objects, Oils, chemicals or acids
- Shock loading when filling, lifting and dropping.
- Lateral force and pendular (swinging) motion
- Stacking more than 4 high (standard bag)
- Vandalism when left unattended

It is paramount that an inspection regime is in place to inspect bags visually for damage prior to each use, bearing in mind all of the above risks.

Under no circumstances should attempts be made to repair Helibags



UV Exposure

Helibags are made from UV stable material but will deteriorate if left exposed to UV light (sunlight). Exposure to wind & rain accelerates the rate of deterioration.

It is important to keep bags protected from the elements. Use black polythene or sufficiently thick sheeting to prevent exposure and deterioration.

Do not attempt to lift bags if they have been subjected to prolonged exposure.

UV degradation may be indicated by a softening of the materials (sometimes with discolouration) so that the outer surface can be rubbed off. In extreme cases the outer surface may become powdered. If in any doubt please use a new bag.

Please check the safety label for date of manufacture as a guide to possible age.

Although Helibags® made from UV treated materials it is impossible to guarantee lifespan due to the varied conditions in which they are stored and used. However as a rough guide they should last at least 6 months depending on weather conditions.

Use The Correct Bag – Don't Risk It !

Helibags are designed and type tested to do a specific job. We strongly advise against using single trip "Builders Type" or standard bags with short loops which are not certificated for single point lifting.

Be aware of increased pendular/G forces that may be imposed on the bags when circling and landing.

We do not recommend Helibags are flown empty - they can act as parachutes & also become entangled with the aircraft.

We do not recommend that Helibags are excessively multi loaded onto a single hook.

Be aware of any static grounding issues during operation.

We recommend that your ground contractors familiarise themselves with this guide and can provide extra copies on request.



Bag Design Testing

Our Helibag® designs are tested to destruction. We provide copies of test certificates on request & the certificate number appears on the safety label sewn into your bags.

1200kg Safe Working Load & 6:1 Safety Factor to give you peace of mind

Laboratory tested to withstand over 70 lift operations at four times safe working load then tested to destruction. The bag must achieve six times the safe working load on this final test (e.g 7200kgs)

The Safety Label

Helibags® bear our registered trademark on the label, the Sackmaker logo, the ISO 21898 certification / test number / date of manufacture plus a QR code for handling guidelines.

Exact text may vary depending on location of test & manufacture.

General Information & Recycling

Sackmaker can supply Helibags & other FIBC's in made to measure sizes to meet your specific lifting needs. We can also manufacture bags to UN packaging regulations for hazardous goods & Type C anti static bags. Plus FIBC's with extra reinforcements, top covers & printed to customer requirements. Individual charges for test certification may apply for bespoke bags outwith our standard certification.

All our FIBCs are generally recyclable at end of life unless they are severely contaminated with content residue which is unrecyclable or hazardous. Contact us for details on your local reprocessors.





WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK it helps us to constantly improve our products & customer service and to make our customers operations even safer so contact us if you require any further assistance, information or copies of relevant safety certification for your files.



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