

Rebar Cages: Verify Support Before Release

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Why this matters

A tied cage is not automatically stable through assembly, lifting and placement. Each change of support needs a defined arrangement before people enter its possible fall or movement path.

Objective: Identify what supports the cage at each stage and verify the receiving restraint before crane release.

Key hazards or failure points

Unstable partial cage; unsuitable lift points; deformation; overturned cage; trapping at the base; disturbed restraint; projecting steel.

Practical controls

- Use the cage-specific assembly, lifting and temporary-support information. Confirm the supported assembly location and receiving area before work; do not assume tie wire establishes lifting capacity.
- Keep people clear of the moving cage and its potential collapse path. Use the planned access and load-control method; this talk does not authorize climbing reinforcement.
- Install the specified receiving restraint before releasing the crane. Preserve temporary supports and communicate who may approve changes or their removal.

Verify It in the Field

Match the cage identity and current arrangement to the assembly and lift documents. Responsible lift personnel verify the lifting points and gear; appearance alone cannot establish capacity.

From safe access, check actual receiving support and required restraint against the plan. Confirm who checks the installed arrangement and communicates release; do not test stability by unhooking.

Record cage/location, support source, actual findings, checker and restrictions. Confirm impalement protection and access for the next crew without entering an unstable cage.

Stop and reassess

Hold work for missing support evidence, changed shape, unexpected movement, damaged restraint or an unsuitable receiving area. Keep clear; never try to catch or manually brace a falling cage. Obtain technical correction and recheck before continuing.

Ask the crew

1. What supports the cage during this next step?
2. What must be verified before the crane releases it?
3. Who must approve changing a restraint?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.703(d)(1); 1926.701(b); actual cage and lift documents.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/rebar-cage-stability