

Give Bent Hooks the Hook



Dear Editor,

Could you pass the word that the hooks on trailer safety chains should *never* be bent to fit the shackles on the back of FMTVs?

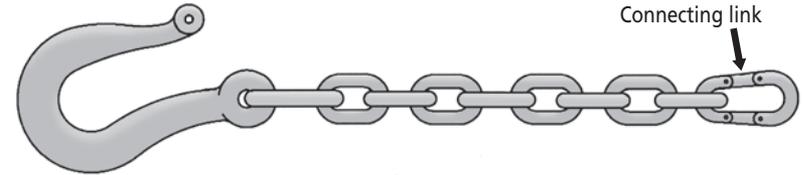
You had the word on Pages 10-11 of PS 721 (Dec 12) about using larger hooks and extensions for the chains. Unfortunately, we're still seeing bent hooks in the field.

Cindy Heyden
Equipment Specialist
TACOM LCMC

Editor's Note: *Can do, Ma'am! But first a little history: The FMTV manufacturer increased the size of the truck's tow shackles to meet new air transport and rail tie-down requirements. When this happened, the tow shackles fit the size and weight of the FMTV trailer, but not the smaller hook size of the lunette trailers that FMTVs sometimes tow.*

Instead of forcing a fit by bending the open hooks, follow these steps to ensure the right fit:

1. Cut the existing chain five inches from the frame.
2. Discard the old hook and excess chain.
3. Attach a new chain assembly, NSN 4010-01-169-6995, to the existing chain using the connecting link that's attached to the end of the assembly.
4. Cross the safety chain under the trailer tongue. Then pull the end of the chain and eye or clevis end of the hook toward each other.



And here are a few special reminders:

When attaching to a truck that has no extended pintle, you'll need to shorten the trailer safety chains so they don't drag or get caught on brush or commo wire. Try using zip ties or bungee cord to take up the extra slack.

If you have an M105A3, M101A2/A3, or a lunette trailer with a surge brake device, you must adjust the length of the breakaway cable/chain. Make it a bit shorter than the safety chains. Then if the trailer disconnects from the tow pintle, the breakaway cable/chain will fully actuate the trailer brakes before the slack in the safety chains is taken up.

Consider this the latest and greatest guidance.



New HIMARS Cab Sling

The M142 HIMARS has a new increased crew protection (ICP) cab web sling for lifting the cab off the truck. NSN 3940-01-630-8470 (PN 5000-1174) replaces the old sling, NSN 3940-00-276-9165 (PN FDC-8514-2). The new sling will be added to the AAL at the next revision of TM 9-2300-310-14&P in IETM EM 0258. A new safety latch kit, NSN 4030-01-630-7855 (PN 4000-306), for the new sling will be added, too.