

Greetings all. Today's Bulletin is about 'bulk bags' or 'super sacks' which are also known as flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBC's).

A bulk container, made of flexible fabric, these bags are often used because they are light and easily transportable.

Their intended use is for the carriage or storage of solid material in powder, flake, or granular form.

FIBC's are most often made of thick woven polyethylene or polypropylene, and they can either be coated or uncoated.

They cannot be handled manually when filled, instead they are designed to be lifted from the top by means of integral, permanently attached devices (lift loops or straps).

FIBC's play a vital role in our industry providing a convenient and lightweight alternative to rigid containers. They must be used and maintained appropriately to ensure they are every bit as safe as their container counterparts.

The relevant standard for Non-Dangerous Goods FIBC's is Australian Standard - AS 3668:2019.

There are two types of FIBC, single trip and multi trip. The tag is required to define the type of FIBC.

Single Trip – for a single fill and discharge. SWL safety factor of 5:1

Multi Trip – for multiple fill and discharge. SWL safety factor of 6:1

Single Trip FIBC - FILL ONCE ONLY	
SWL: ____kg SAFETY FACTOR: 5:1	
USE: NON-DANGEROUS GOODS	
Supplier's name and address:	Test certificate no:
	Test certificate date:
Laboratory:	
Test standard: AS3668-_____	
Date of manufacture:	
Supplier's reference:	
Special treatments:	
Handling recommendations/pictograms	
PROTECT FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT	

Multi Trip FIBC - REFILLABLE	
SWL: ____kg SAFETY FACTOR: 6:1	
USE: NON-DANGEROUS GOODS	
Supplier's name and address:	Test certificate no:
	Test certificate date:
Laboratory:	
Test standard: AS3668-_____	
Date of manufacture:	
Supplier's reference:	
Special treatments:	
Handling recommendations/pictograms	
PROTECT FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT	

Neither definitions outline how many lifts can be completed with the bag.

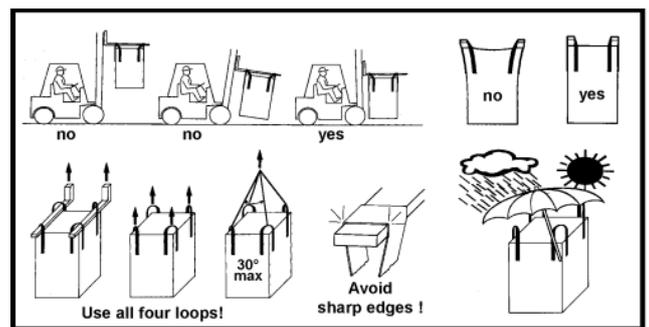
STORAGE OF FIBC's (ON THE GROUND)

- FIBC's should be stored in a dry, clean facility which protects them from UV rays.

- Pallets for handling the FIBC need to be in a good condition with no protruding nails and an appropriate size for the FIBC.
- Do not drag, push or move an FIBC by the loops when it is touching the ground.
- If filled, ensure that all FIBC's are stable when stacking.

HANDLING WITH A CRANE (OFF THE GROUND)

- Diggers and Riggers are not trained on the discard criteria of FIBCs. Appendix A in AS 3668 outlines inspection of the container and lifting loops for:
 - Surface Abrasion,
 - Tears or Cuts,
 - UV Degradation,
 - Damaged Coatings,
 - Damage to stitching, gluing, or welding.
- Before use, it is important to check that the FIBC is not damaged in a way that would compromise its strength. Damage could have occurred during transport or initial unloading.
- Ensure crane hooks do not have sharp edges that could sever the handles.
- Lift the FIBC in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions indicated on the safety label attached to the FIBC.



- Make sure all load has been released from the lifting loops before removing the hook.
- Never allow a person or any body parts to be under a suspended FIBC.
- Avoid sudden stopping during transportation.

For more information, [CICA members](#) can download AS 3668:2019. The [FIBCA](#) and the [Australian Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container Association \(AFIBCA\)](#) are two organisations that promote and to serve as a source of information on the safe handling of FIBC's.