Tubular handling and tubular management is a complex process. Full information for the handling and management of Oilfield Casing and Tubular Goods (OCTG) can be found in API RP 5C1 “Recommended Practice for the Care and Use of Casing and Tubing”. This is carbon steel, hot drawn, extruded pipe. There are other procedures for the handling of special steels such as 13% and 25% Chrome tubing and casing – API 5CT 13 Cr L80 and for other exotic steels such as Stainless Steel API 5CT 13Cr C95 (Stainless) and Titanium.

The items below are abbreviated guidelines for the handling of OCTG.

1. The safe working load (SWL) of each sling shall not be exceeded by the entire bundle weight.
2. Make odd number joints of tubular in each bundle to make bundles more round. (3 x 13.3/8”; 5 x 9.5/8” & 7 x 7.5/8” are common pipes within a bundle)
3. Slings should be placed at equal distance (approximately 25%) from the ends of the load with the internal angle at the hook not to exceed 90 deg.
4. The slings should be double wrapped and choked (using a bulldog grip and tie wrap) around the tubular bundle.
5. Tubulars are graded in three grades of length, Range 1 (16 – 25 Feet), Range 2 (25 – 34 feet) and Range 3 (34 – 48 feet). Only tubulars within a specific range should be bundled together. Tubulars below 16 feet in length are referred to as pup joints and these should be transported by marine vessels in either a basket or shipping container. When it is necessary to bundle tubulars of different lengths within the range, the shortest tubular should not be less than 75% of the length of the longest tubular
6. In the case of slung tubulars a wire rope grip (bull dog grip) should be used above the reeved eye that forms the choke.
7. A tie wrap should be used on the reeved eye of the sling to prevent the eye from slipping over the roped grip.
8. Excessively long tubular lifts may have two tag lines attached. The tag lines shall not be attached to the slings but may be attached round the bundle outside of the sling area.
9. Only tubulars of the same diameter should be bundled together and whenever possible should be of similar length.
10. Tubulars, whether individual or in bundles, shall be supported at various lengths along the tube, (minimum of 3 supports) to prevent hogging and sagging of the tube. Wood or soft materials shall be used to support the tube or bundle. It is also important that wedges or chocks are used on the end tubes in a stow to prevent them rolling. Wedges and chocks should be nailed to the supporting wood to minimize movement of the wedge or chock.
11. Extreme care should be taken when walking on top of tubulars. Handling crews must wear the correct PPE, in particular steel toe capped boots and gloves.
12. Ensure that protection end caps are correctly fitted prior to the movement of tubulars to trucks and vessels. End caps can be a dropped object incident if incorrectly fitted and tighten up.
13. Ensure that no foreign objects such as stones or short timber pieces are inserted into any of the open ended tubulars as these can also lead to dropped object incidents.