

Laclede Chain Manufacturing Co., LLC

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With origins dating back to supplying chain links for the Conestoga wagons going West, Laclede Chain Manufacturing Co., LLC, is proud to be an experienced, trusted chain-maker in North America. Founded in 1854, Laclede Chain is a leading manufacturer of industrial chain and traction (tire) chain products.

Hardware and industrial products consist of all grades of welded chain including overhead lifting (Grades 100 and 80), transportation tie down chains (Grade 70), high test chain (Grade 43), proof coil (Grade 30) and several types of weldless chain. To complement its chain line, Laclede offers a full line of chain hooks, fittings and other accessories. The company's tire chain division manufactures several classifications of chains for passenger cars, light trucks, SUVs, commercial trucks, buses, tractors and off-road vehicles. Laclede's manufacturing facilities are located in Maryville, Mo., and Vicksburg, Miss. The traction division is located in Vancouver, Wash., and the company has warehouses strategically located in the U.S. to allow quick transit times.

Laclede has an impressive on-time shipping rate of over 99 percent. The company is focused on meeting its customers' needs by shipping its products quickly and accurately. Quality is the most important priority in the company's chain manufacturing facilities. Operators and inspectors are constantly measuring chain to ensure compliance to the specifications. They perform visual inspections, proof testing and destructive testing in order to verify that a chain meets the mechanical properties required for the grade of chain being tested.

The grade of chain is identified on every sixth link of chain. The chain is stamped with an "L" and the number that corresponds to its grade: L10 for Grade 100 Alloy, L8 for Grade 80 Alloy, L7 for Grade 70 Transport, L4 for Grade 43 High Test and L3 for Grade 30 Proof Coil.

Laclede Chain manufactures several different grades of chain, and these chains are found throughout the U.S. military. The company supplies a significant amount of Grade 30 and Grade 43 chain through the General Services Administration. These chains are used to tie down vehicles going overseas. These assemblies are typically 14 or 20 feet in length with hooks on each end. Laclede is proud to offer these custom orders through GSA.

Laclede also supplies Grade 80 chain to the military for various tie-down purposes. Larger loads require a chain that has a higher working load limit, thus Grade 80 chain is used for the bigger applications. Grade 80 and Grade 100 chain can also be used for overhead lifting. Overhead lifting elevates a freely suspended load to such a position that dropping a load would present a possibility of bodily injury or property damage. Only Grade 80 and Grade 100 chain should be used for overhead lifting. The lower grades of chain are used for more general applications. Laclede even manufactures a 2/0 rim chain that is used on tailgate assemblies.

The company also supplies tire chains. It manufactures a variety of tire chain products and currently holds the Defense Logistics Agency's indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract for Humvee tire chains.

Laclede's future focus in growing its military and government business is to expand the current product offering and increase market exposure by teaming with various distributors, applying the latest technologies in the chain manufacturing industry. Also, the company is pursuing strategic alliances with various original equipment manufacturers to provide chain and chain assembly components—for example, tire chains and tow chains—on new platforms being produced. Laclede is also working to provide unprecedented corrosion protection to its products and hopes to provide this to various DoD entities that require a higher level of corrosion protection, such as the Navy, U.S. Transportation Command and others.

For over a century and a half, the company has provided the industrial chain and tire chain market with fine-quality products and top-of-the-line customer service. Today, Laclede continues to enhance those same principles to serve its customers in ways that help them grow their businesses. Laclede Chain is honored to be a sustaining member of AUSA, and the company looks forward to continued growth in supplying the different branches of the U.S. armed forces. The company has over 200 employees, and it is proud to say that it has several veterans in its organization. Laclede is honoring men and women in combat by producing the highest-quality products in the industry and by working with its partners in the military arena to keep equipment safe and efficient. The company believes deployed troops deserve the best and manufactures its products with that as its mission.

