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We have been shipping the Lectrotab product for 6-1/2 years now and have always supplied, flat, 12 gauge, 304 stainless steel tabs with a rolled hinge and type 316, 1/4 inch diameter, stainless steel pin, in lieu of using any welding. These “standard” tabs have served very well and are a good balance between strength, durability and cost.

From the beginning, however, our tabs have, from time to time, been subjected to higher loads than they can stand wherein they bend. Our five year limited warranty guarantees that our standard tabs will not fail as the result of a defect in the materials used or from any defects in our workmanship. We also guarantee that the tab will not bend on it’s own but we do not guarantee that our tabs cannot be bent. Certainly they can be bent and do get bent, both from handling procedures as well as from operating procedures.

A bent tab, while not a warranty issue, is certainly an indication that something needs to change; the boatyard needs to be more careful, the operator needs to ease up, or the tabs need to be stronger. We can’t monitor the boatyard or the operator, but we have paid attention to each case of a bent tab and have done the following to strengthen our standard tabs:

1. On all 30” and wider tabs, we turn up the trailing edge 7/8 of an inch, at 90°, for lateral stiffness.
2. On request, we can turn up the left and right sides of any tab, usually the 12X9 and 12X12 sizes, for longitudinal strength.
3. We offer the “sport tab” in the 9X9, 9X12 and 12X12 sizes wherein we turn up the sides and add a left to right stiffener across where the lower bracket attaches.

In summary, our standard 12 gauge tab is satisfactorily serving more than 95% of the Lectrotab installations worldwide. But some operators and boatyards are tough on tabs and if they can’t ease up, we have tougher tabs.

Over the last several years, we have moved our tab manufacturing under our direct control wherein it is now practical to quickly and economically make special tabs in response to special needs. At Lectrotab, we plan to be the best in our field and in that regard, will continue to expand the product line from controls to tabs, in response to your needs.

The software for the “OVAL” control looks good now so we are still on track to have the product available by the end of July.

More next week but let us hear from you in the meantime. Use [mailcall@lectrotab.com](mailto:mailcall@lectrotab.com) for your reply. Our responses will continue to be very quick!

Regards,

L. Jeremy Crews  
President