

SAFETY ALERT!



Overhead crane – Cable failure

The purpose of this safety alert is to provide safety guidelines to be followed when working with an overhead crane.

Background

An overhead crane lifting cable gave way while lifting a 3.5 ton metal sheet coil, dropping it from a height of 2 metres. The crane had been rated at 6 ton.

The crane had been undergoing daily routine inspection by the supervisor and had a regular routine service inspection as per the service booklet.

Both inspections failed to detect the peeling of cable in the early stages.

Contributing factors

- Maintenance and inspection frequencies need to be in accordance with the Regulation Standard.
- If issues are raised by an inspector, the organisation needs to make sure that they follow up immediately.
- The daily inspection checklist did not include all the components that need to be checked every day.

Action Required

- Ensure that inspection and reports clearly indicate the state and condition of all the components applicable to the overhead crane.
- Ensure that all crane start-up checks are completed at the beginning of each shift.
- Do not operate the overhead crane if irregularities have been reported. Wait until the problem has been rectified and a competent person has declared the overhead crane safe to operate.
- Overhead crane inspections must be done by a competent crane operator.

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