Safety Alert

ARTC No. 114
Issued 06/09/2019

Rail Clamps

Incident

This alert has been issued following an incident where a Rail Clamp whilst being tightened, sheared in two and flew up striking a worker in the face. The worker sustained a broken nose and a hairline fracture to his jaw.

The Rail Clamp was being installed using a rattle gun to tighten the hexagonal nuts. The 'Installation and Operating Instructions for Robel Clamps' attached to this alert, require the hexagonal nuts to be tightened using a suitable tool (e.g. torque wrench) to a torque value of 580Nm.

All Managers using Rail Clamps are to ensure that:

- All Rail Clamps are inspected for signs of metal fatigue and/or stress fractures. If found, these Rail Clamps are to be disposed of immediately.
- Hexagonal nuts are to be tightened with a suitable tool (e.g. torque wrench) to a torque value of 580nm as per the attached manufacturer's installation and operating instructions.
- All workers using Rail Clamps are to re-familiarise themselves with the attached 'Installation and Operating Instructions for Robel Clamps'

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (e.g. via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert, please speak directly to your supervisor.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be found here.
- For further information contact:
  - Cath Bowlzer Principal Advisor Safety and Environment Interstate
  - Brett Teasdale Principal Advisor Safety Hunter Valley
  - Gary Grant Health and Safety Manager Delivery Inland Rail
  - Mark Blackmore Corporate Principal Safety Manager