

INTERIM SQE ALERT

SQE Alert No:

JHG-01-10

Date of Issue:

12/01/10

Description of Incident:

On Sunday 10th January 2010 an 8mm high tensile chain failed whilst lifting a 6.8metre long, 1.2 tonne steel column into position on a NSW Rail project. The column then fell to the ground and toppled over. No persons were injured.



Direct Cause(s) of Incident:

Preliminary investigation of the lift indicated that the chain link failed due to damage sustained as a result of the chain bearing on sharp steel corners. It is not clear if the damage was done during this lift or in previous lifts. Further metallurgical testing will occur.

Corrective Actions:

Pending the results of the metallurgical testing, projects are advised to:

- 1) Immediately inspect all chainsets in use for damage which might cause a chain to have a reduction in its Working Load Limit.
- 2) Ensure that all rigging gear is subject to visual inspection by a competent person prior to use
- 3) Ensure that all rigging gear is subject to regular recorded inspection by a competent person, intervals to be determined based on the duty cycle of the gear, ie, gear in frequent use inspected monthly as a minimum.
- 4) Ensure that best practice techniques are used for the lifting of structural steel, in particular columns, using dedicated lift points where possible, remote or ratchet release shackles as a first preference then synthetic or flexible steel wire rope slings, ahead of reeved chain.
- 5) Ensure that any chain used to lift solid objects has sufficient radius blocks or packers fitted to prevent bending, kinking or gouging of the chain links at the edges of the load.
- 6) Ensure that only "cradle type" chain shorteners are used.
- 7) Ensure that chains are allowed to find their own position in a reeved situation, rather than be knocked down by hammers or dunnage.
- 8) Ensure that lifting gear provided by sub-contractors is fit for purpose before use, including overview of their most recent lifting gear register

Raised by:

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Approved by:

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This SQE Alert Form is also to be posted on all workplace notice boards and used by Supervisors as a subject for discussion at a "Toolbox Meeting".

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