

Key

Safety Alert

SA 13-209 – Failure of Lifting Clutch 13 February 2013

Audience

- All Project Directors
- All Project Managers
- All Contractor Project Managers
- Principal Contractors

Background

A 'swift lift' clutch failed during a lift resulting in a precast parapet falling to the ground.

Failure of lifting aids/devices have the potential to cause serious injury.

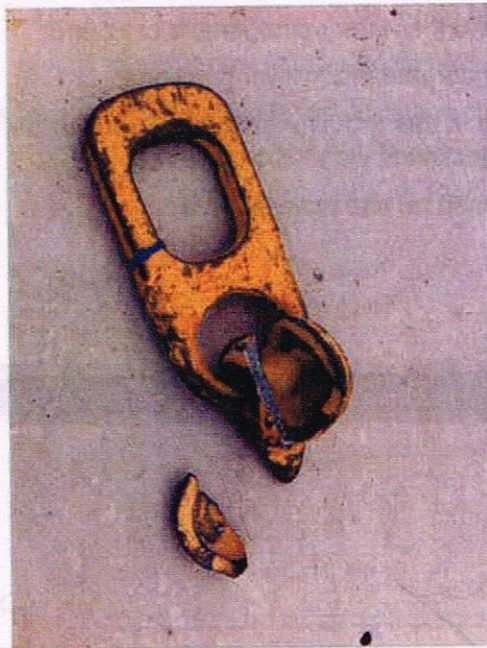
Contact:

Graham Jackson, Technical Director Safety and Quality
9422 5450
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What happened

During the lifting of a precast parapet unit one of the swift lift clutches which was attached to one of two lifting points failed when the unit was approximately 1 metre off the ground causing it to drop to earth at one end while the other end remained connected by the other swift lift clutch.

There were no injuries.



The failed lifting clutch

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Lessons Learned

Without pre-empting the investigation, the lifting clutch had been recently inspected by a competent person in January 2013 and the date of the last annual inspection certificate was less than 12 months ago.

There have also been a number of similar failures in Australia recently with similar Safety Alerts issued. One such alert is attached.

All projects are to review all lifting clutches for wear and/or deformation in accordance with AS3850 *Tilt up concrete construction*;

Section 2.5.2 of AS3850 requires

- lifting clutches to be proof tested, certified and individually identified prior to being placed into service. The proof test shall subject the device to a load of 2.0 times its WLL.
- Inspections of lifting clutches, prior to each use, are to be conducted to check for wear and deformation. A proof test using a load equal to 1.2 times the WLL shall be conducted and recorded at least at twelve-monthly intervals.

Where a lifting clutch is found to be damaged or evidence of damage/deformation is identified, the lifting clutch is to be tagged and withdrawn from use.

Actions Required

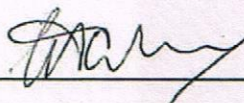
Transport Projects project Directors and Project Managers are required to distribute this Safety Alert to their personnel under their management or control.

Principal contractors are to undertake the following actions;

- The information contained in this Safety Alert is to be provided and acted upon to all staff working on Transport Project sites via toolbox talks.
- This Safety Alert to be placed on site noticeboards.

Issued and authorised by Graham Jackson Technical Director Safety and Quality

Signature _____



Dated: 14 / 2 / 2013