

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 82
Issued 30/11/2015

Engcon / Doherty Fully Automatic Quick Hitch

This alert has been issued following the identification of premature wear (mushrooming) of a retention tongue and grooving wear of a Jaw slide assembly during a machine inspection which results in the fail-safe retention of excavator attachments being compromised.

This wear has been observed in machines ranging from 300 to 900 operating hours that have been utilising Undercutting, Tamping, Mulching attachments and general purpose buckets.

The causes of the wear are being investigated further; however initial indications include operators "snapping" onto attachments without fully retracting the hitch. As such all operators are required to review the OEM operating procedures for their quick hitch and are required to inspect the functionality of the quick hitch failsafe retention tongue during daily pre-start inspections.

For IMMEDIATE action:

- Please arrange to have all Doherty quick hitch's inspected on any machines based at your provisioning centre and / or contractor's equipment that you are operating for signs of wear.

Ongoing Actions

- Operators are required to review the OEM operator's manual for quick hitches.
- Operators must visually check the condition of Quick hitches on a daily basis as part of their daily pre-start inspections.
- If any signs of wear are present, the ARTC Plant Coordinator must be contacted and a test of the fail safe functionality must be performed before use.
- ARTC Plant Coordinators will advise in the case of any rectification works required that can be performed to resolve the issue.



Mushrooming Of Attachment Retention Tongue



Grooving Wear of Jaw Slide Assembly (underside of the hitch)

Images and video of the issue along with the Doherty Operation Manual can be seen [here](#) or at the following link:

<http://teams.artc.com.au/sites/plant/Lists/Safety%20Information%20%20Links/AllItems.aspx>

A Doherty operation instructional video can be seen here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6x79BcA2qJg>

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 (eg 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 the ARTC Plant Manager, Greg Whelan on 02 4941 9623