

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 84
Issued 28/01/2016

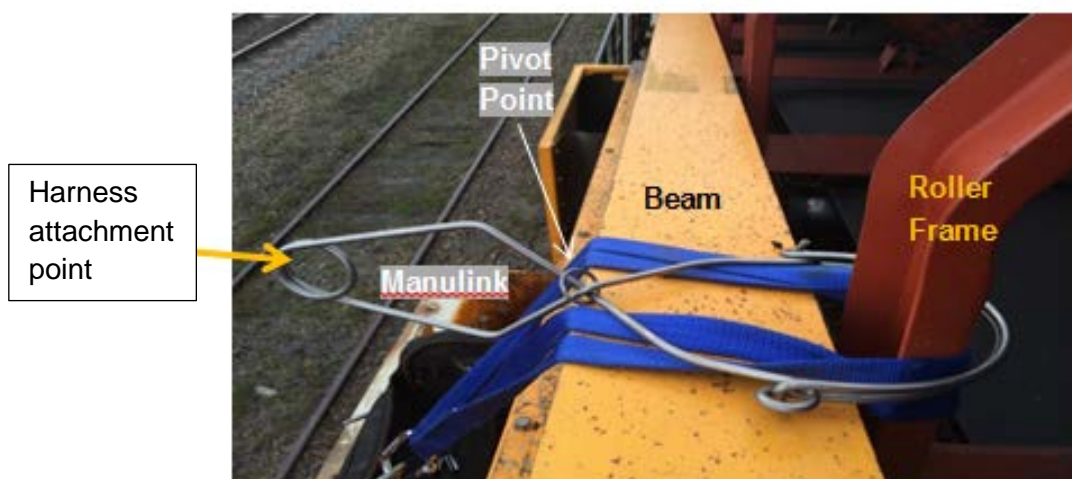
Fall Restraint Equipment Selection & Use

Incident

This alert has been issued following a significant near miss incident where an employee was working at heights on the Shoulder Ballast Cleaner and was using fall restraint equipment when a key component failed resulting in him falling approximately two metres to the ground; narrowly missing both the adjacent rail line with his head and shoulders and another employee.

The employee was using a portable fall arrest attachment point called a Manulink which allows rapid application and removal of a fall restraint harness to fixed structures when repeated access or physical movement between attachment points is required.

The nature of the failure of the product is based on the horizontal position that the Manulink was applied, the inadvertent downward force has appeared to have contributed to the partial release of the latching mechanism and ultimate failure of the equipment. The Manulink is designed to be used in a vertical position only although the current product literature is not strictly clear on this requirement.





The original Manulink unit shape on the left, failed unit on the right

The use of Manulink anchorage connectors has since been eliminated in the Shoulder Ballast Cleaning team with additional weld on lugs being provided at key access points for direct physical connection of fall restraint harnesses to the chassis as shown below.



For your action

1. Review the application of similar fall arrest equipment in your area for suitability of use
2. 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.
3. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
4. 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.
5. If you have any safety concerns with working at heights equipment, please speak directly to your supervisor.

Further information

- All safety alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- Please contact: Tony Miller – Team Manager Shoulder Ballast Cleaning on (02) 4941 9700.