



Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

SAFETY ALERT

Subject: Genie Z135/70 Boom Lift Failure

Number: SA 02/15

DIO Sponsor: Bryan Dunn

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Who Should Read this: Top Level Budget Holders, Prime Contractors, Private Finance Initiatives, Public, Private Partnership and other traditionally procured contracts, Project Managers, Site Estate Authority Teams and Property Managers with responsibility for MOD projects and Property Management Works Services (including the legacy work of EWCs/WSMs), Coordinating Authorising Engineers, Authorising Engineers (WaH), Authorised Persons (WaH).

This Safety Alert does not necessarily cover all aspects of the subject matter and readers should make themselves aware of other potential issues. Readers should also not rely on DIO Safety Alerts as their only means of becoming aware of safety issues, but they should consult widely across other media to maintain awareness.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: When updated or rescinded.

Health and Safety

Aim

1. To bring to the attention of appropriate persons the failure of a boom lift on a mobile elevated working platform with a risk of serious injury, and the need to make checks that appropriate safeguards are in place.

Introduction

2. Compliance with the contents of this Alert will enable compliance with the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and its subordinate Regulations.
3. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Maintenance Management Organisation (MMO) contractor to carry out all actions in accordance with this Alert.
4. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Part 2 Volume 3 – High Risk Activities on the Defence Estate.
5. On MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF) responsibility is jointly held by USVF and DIO(USF). At base level this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Alert. Where this Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, DIO (USF) code of practice will be issued.

Requirement

6. Following a recent failure, the manufacturer (Genie) are currently conducting an investigation. Genie Z135/70 boom lift machines need to be taken out of service, until further instruction.
7. If and when these boom machines are able to return to service, note must also be taken of HSE bulletin FOD 1 - 2014 REV 1 (March 2103) and Genie Safety Notice 130005 (July 2013) following a fatality in June 2013, due to instability and overturning of a Genie Z135/70 mobile elevating work platform (MEWP). It is essential that these machines are properly calibrated by a competent person, and that this is checked as the June 2013 fatality may have been due to human error in the calibration.
8. Personnel are to ensure that suitable safety harnesses and lanyards are worn and used when operating MEWPs.

Background

9. On 22 March 2015, a contractor was operating a Genie Z135/70 boom lift machine at Port Talbot Steel Works when control of the boom was lost and instead the machine made hazardous undesirable movements to the basket. While the operator had been trying to slew the basket, the boom started to tilt the basket dangerously backwards, not in response to the controls being made. Neither the basket operator nor the safety man on the ground could gain control of the boom to correct the tilt. With the basket personnel effectively stranded at height, they were only able to be rescued by a crane with another man-riding basket.
10. After the incident, further attempts were made to recover control of the jib and basket, but these were unsuccessful and only resulted in additional extension of the jib which tilted the basket further back. The photographs below indicate the precarious basket and jib positions after these attempts had been made.



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