



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

SAFETY ALERT

Subject: Failed Cantilever Hoist / Controlled Descent Device

Number: 09/13

DIO Secretariat Sponsor: RA Cawthorne

Date of issue:
17 December 2013

Contact if different from above Sponsor:

Tim Lord

ODC – Engineering & Construction
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Kingston Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 7RL

Tel: 94421 2005 / 0121 311 2005. Email: DIOOpsNorth-PTS7@mod.uk

Who Should Read this:

Who Should Read this: CEStOs, Top Level Budget Holders, Project Sponsors, MOD Project Managers and others within the IPT (for both Prime, PFI/PPP and traditionally procured contracts), Defence Infrastructure Organisation Advisors and Property Managers/Site Estate Representatives 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), purchasers and installers of climbing equipment.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: No Expiry
except on update.

Health and Safety

1. Document Aim:

To alert all personnel responsible for ensuring professional appraisals and condition inspections are undertaken on the MoD estate.

2. Introduction

- a. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS ALERT WILL ENABLE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974 AND ITS SUBORDINATE REGULATIONS.
- b. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Regional Prime Contractor (RPC) and Maintenance Management Organisation (MMO) to carry out all actions in accordance with this Safety Alert.
- c. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Volume 3 – MOD's Safety Rules & Procedures.
- d. 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 Safety Alert. Where this Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, DIO (USF) code of practice will be issued.

3. Requirement

- a. Ensure all lifting hoists or controlled descent devices fully comply with all aspects of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER), including the maintenance of the required certification by regular inspection and having the Safe Working Load (SWL) clearly marked, along with any limitations on use (eg. wind speeds). This includes all mechanical devices, pulleys and winches as well as the supporting structure and any lifting accessories (hooks, slings, etc.).
- b. The guidance provided in HSE Approved Code of Practice L 113 for the Safe Use of Lifting Equipment (LOLER 1998) should be followed, along with manufacturer's recommendations.
- c. Note shall be taken that there are particular requirements for equipment used to lift or lower people (regulation no. 5), including appropriate marking to confirm whether or not lifting equipment is designed for lifting or lowering people.
- d. Amongst a range of protective measures, necessary precautions are required to avoid work being undertaken beneath suspended loads wherever possible and to provide exclusions zones with adequate supervision for control of lifting operations.
- e. Suitably trained personnel should undertake pre-use checks to ensure lifting equipment is safe to use.
- f. Due to their exposure to the environment, susceptibility to rot or corrosion and for devices used to lift or lower people, equipment such as this requires Condition Inspections (thorough examinations) to be undertaken at least every 6 months and a record kept, paying particular attention to signs of rot or corrosion, integrity of connection points including welds, and the correct operation any moving parts and mechanisms. The period between inspections may reduce, for example depending on manufacturer's recommendations, frequency of use or after an incident which may have caused damage.

- g. This work is covered by the DIO “Hard FM Standards & Tasks” schedule.
- h. Any work incurring expenditure of MOD funding requires appropriate authority from the MOD officer responsible for the particular establishment.

4. Background

- a. A serious failure occurred, and although there was no injury, it could have had fatal consequences.
- b. A supporting timber pole failed, causing a heavy element of structural steel to fall to the ground. Fortunately, no-one was in the area at the time and no-one was suspended from the equipment, as it was part of a simulated parachute descent device. Please see photos below:



Cantilever in design position



Failed timber post

- c. It is reported that in the above instance, the timber was partially rotten, but all aspects of an installation need checking to ensure compliance, whether there is a timber pole or not.
- d. It is known that similar devices exist on the MOD estate, typically as simulated parachute descent devices on training establishments; but they could equally be in use as a hoist to lift/lower materials or people in other work scenarios.