

HSE information sheet

The thorough examination and inspection of offshore cranes

Offshore Information Sheet No 9/2007

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Introduction

1. This information sheet reminds duty holders and the competent persons undertaking 'thorough examinations' and 'inspections', to include such measures as necessary, to enable the individual integrity of the primary and secondary braking systems to be verified. This applies to all cranes and not just to those which may be used for manriding operations. This information sheet replaces Safety Notice 5/2002 (SN5/02) (issued Sept 2002) which has now been withdrawn.

Background

2. An incident occurred during lifting operations using one of the main cranes on a mobile offshore drilling unit. The crane involved was equipped with a primary brake which comprised of a counterbalance valve in the hydraulic system. The secondary braking system comprised of a spring applied friction brake. The counterbalance valve was incorrectly adjusted and was essentially 'out of circuit' providing no primary braking.
3. The 'in-service inspections', together with the examination and tests undertaken as part of the 'thorough examination', failed to identify the non operation of this primary brake. After operating in this condition for a number of months a catastrophic failure of the secondary brake occurred which resulted in the uncontrolled lowering of the load. This could have resulted in serious injuries or fatalities to the deck crew involved in the lifting operation.

Actions

4. Duty holders should review their 'thorough examination' scheme to ensure it includes such measures, as necessary, to enable the individual integrity of the primary and secondary braking systems to be verified independently of each other. The competent person should decide whether testing is necessary to ensure the integrity of these systems.

Relevant legal requirements

5. The relevant legal requirements are contained within:
 - a) The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/2307) (LOLER)
 - b) The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/2206) (PUWER)
 - c) The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/3242) (MHSWR)

References

6. You can find more relevant information in the following publications:
 - Safe use of lifting equipment. Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. Approved Code of Practice and guidance L113 HSE Books 1998 ISBN 0 7176 1628 2

- Safe use of work equipment. Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. Approved Code of Practice and guidance L22 (Second edition) HSE Books 1998 ISBN 0 7176 1626 6
- Management of health and safety at work. Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. Approved Code of Practice and guidance L21 (Second edition) HSE Books 2000 ISBN 0 7176 2488 9
- Technical guidance on the safe use of lifting equipment offshore HSG221 HSE Books 2002 ISBN 0 7176 2100 6

BS 7121-11:1998 Code of practice for safe use of cranes. Offshore cranes.
Available from:

BSI Customer Services,
389 Chiswick High Road,
London
W4 4AL

Tel: 020 8996 9001
Fax: 020 8996 7001
Website: www.bsi-global.com

Further information

7. Any queries relating to this safety notice should be addressed to:

Health and Safety Executive
Hazardous Installations Directorate
Offshore Division
Lord Cullen House
Fraser Place
Aberdeen
AB25 3UB,

Tel: 01224 252500
Fax: 01224 252648

This information sheet contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do
