



Mines Safety Bulletin No. 162

Subject: Inspection and maintenance of special purpose lifting plant and hoists

Date: 14 March 2019

Background

Mines inspectors repeatedly identify plant such as shaft reliners, hopper trolleys, workshop mobile jib cranes and other multi-purpose lifting devices in poor condition and without maintenance and inspection records. These are classified plant as defined in regulation 6.1 of the Mine Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995 (MSIR). For plant with a lifting capacity over 10 tonne, they are registerable as required by MSIR r. 6.34. All others are subject to duty of care requirements under MSIR r. 6.2.

Summary of hazard

These special purpose lifting plant are used to support loads in situations where:

- it is dangerous for workers to undertake the work unaided, often due to the weight of the item being manipulated, or the cramped or constrained environment
- the worker is in close proximity to the load.

Failure or unexpected movement of these devices exposes workers to the hazards associated with falling items, including crushing injuries or death.



Mill reliner



Workshop-based multi-purpose lifting device

Contributory factors

Cursory or incomplete inspection and maintenance contributes to the plant not performing to specification and, ultimately, failure and uncontrolled movement while workers are in close proximity to a load.

Actions required

These specialised lifting devices, along with miscellaneous hoists, are subject to the requirements of MSIR r. 6.33 and AS1418 Set-2011– Cranes, hoists and winches. They are:

- to be regularly maintained and serviced in accordance with the requirements of both AS1418 and the OEM specifications; and
- to have records maintained of their maintenance, repair, modification and servicing.

Many of these lifting devices have special attachments and the requirements for maintenance apply equally to the attachments.

Due to the close proximity of workers to the loads lifted by these pieces of plant, special consideration should be given to maintaining records of maintenance as mentioned in MSIR r. 6.25 when undertaking an assessment under MSIR r. 6.17 and r. 6.18.

Further information

Visit www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety for information on occupational safety and health in the resources sector.

This Mines Safety Bulletin was approved for release by the State Mining Engineer on 14 March 2019