



**USE OF AIR HOISTS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONNEL
IN UNDERGROUND MINES**

On 3 June 1997 a Safety Bulletin was issued (SB No 24) highlighting the manufacturer's limitations associated with the use of certain proprietary air hoists for transportation of personnel in mines. In that Bulletin attention was drawn to the fact that one manufacturer had released a series of air hoists called "Man Rider Air Winches" which were effectively rendered unsuitable for underground mine shaft application by the manufacturer's "Safe Operating Instructions".

The manufacturer, Ingersoll Rand, has amended the Safe Operating Instructions and by doing so has removed the previous restrictions which should now allow the use of their FA5MR model air hoist in underground mining applications.

The amended Safe Operating Instructions are as follows:-

WARNING

Failure to follow these instructions may result in termination of all applicable warranties.

Ingersoll Rand assumes no liability for any loss or damage resulting from operation of *Man-Rider* winches if these instructions are not followed.

1. Winch operator must maintain an effective signalling or communication system with personnel being lifted or lowered at all times.
2. Personnel operating the winch are to have sufficient instruction/training concerning that operation before any movement takes place.
3. The winch installation must be arranged to conform to the statutory regulations covering personnel transportation.
4. Prior to any personnel movement, the winch shall be inspected to ensure safe operation.
5. The winch shall not be overloaded.
6. The winch shall not be operated without testing. (Refer to "Inspection and Testing" procedures).
7. The winch shall not be operated in a damaged condition.
8. The winch shall not be operated in an improperly equipped or maintained condition.
9. Do not attach the winch to an unsafe foundation. All attaching bolts and foundations should have a higher load carrying capacity than the breaking strength of the wire rope on the winch.
10. Do not operate the winch if any personnel are near the line of force or are capable of coming into contact with moving parts.
11. All signs and warning notices must be permanently posted on the winch.
12. Always maintain a minimum three wraps of wire rope on the winch.
13. Never leave an unattended load suspended.
14. Wire rope must spool off drum from the top, away from the operator.

Adherence to these instructions should result in the safe use of this particular air hoist for transportation of personnel in underground mines.

Attention is particularly drawn to the implications of items 1 and 13 with respect to cage raising or gig raising operations.