

No: 70
Date: 23/09/2003
Subject: FRANNA MOBILE CRANES - UNCONTROLLED MOVEMENT

Details:

A 12t Franna crane was observed rolling backwards from where it had been parked. It came to rest when the rear of the crane impacted a building after traveling a distance of 27m.

The crane had been parked on clear ground that sloped away about 5 degrees towards the building. The Operator had correctly applied all brakes and locked the crane's cab.

When alighting from the cab he probably knocked the Reserve Air switch on. This switch is designed to override the park brake so that the crane can be moved in an emergency if the crane's engine cannot be started.

The Reserve Air switch being actuated accidentally or mistakenly as a park brake has caused a number of other uncontrolled movements of Franna cranes.

Recommendations:

From 1998 Franna changed the black Reserve Air switch that had a Push/Lock action to a green Emergency Park Brake Release switch that had a Push/Hold action. Both switches have the same purpose - to release the park brake in an emergency.

The mode of operation of the switch has changed. Previously, when the Reserve Air switch was engaged it locked into the release position. The Emergency Park Brake Release has a spring-loaded return, which requires the unit to be physically held in the release position.

The Emergency Park Brake switch is completely interchangeable with the Reserve Air switch. The green Emergency Park Brake Release switch can be ordered through the manufacturer's spare parts department in Perth under the part number PP0208200. (Contact Kevin Mac on Ph: 08 9358 9806).

For further reference, the following are the machine serial numbers from which the Emergency Park Brake Release switch was introduced.

Franna UC10 – Neither switch ever used. Air/spring applied brakes not used.
Franna 10T/12T – All machines had Reserve Air release switch

Franna AT-14 – from s/n 1615
Franna Mac14 – from s/n 14097
Franna 16T - All machines had Reserve Air release switch
Franna AT-18 – from s/n 3240
Franna AT-20 – All machines had Emergency Park release switch
Franna Mac25 – from s/n 25009



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