



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 13 – 26

FAILURE OF LIFTING EYEBOLT RESULTS IN DROPPED OBJECT

WHAT HAPPENED:

The deck crew was attempting to move an electric motor weighing approximately 200kg (440 pounds) from the shelter deck into a sea container. The motor was lifted using a crane. The banks-man signaled the crane operator to pick up the motor and lift it to the container, which was 5 meters (16 feet) away. The motor was lifted and moved to a height of approximately 2.5 meters (8 feet). When the motor approached the container at a height of about 60cm (2 feet), two roustabouts entered the container to position the motor from inside using taglines. As the motor was being pulled into the sea container it tapped the wall of the container. The motor casing parted at the eyebolt anchor mount allowing the motor to fall to the floor. The crane operator stopped the job and informed the Supervisor. No personnel were injured.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Failure of the lifting eye.
- The motor had been in storage for a period of approximately 5 years. It was identified during the investigation the lifting eye had previously parted and had been welded to the frame of the motor at an earlier time by persons unknown. The implications of this were not realized by the crew and they thought that they could safely complete the task. The eyebolt had not been included in the lifting gear inspection routine.
- The motor had been painted and the lifting eye looked to be in good condition.
- Lack of knowledge by the deck crew to identify the hazards associated with previous failures of lifting eyes, and the fact they should never be welded.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Rig crews were instructed to remove all lifting eyes from motors in storage and on location and replace the eyelet with a suitable bolt that conforms to the thread pattern of the motor.
- If eye bolts are to be utilized, rig crews were instructed to include the lifting eye bolts on the lifting inspection registers and routine maintenance inspections.
- All crews were advised of the previous alerts on lifting eye failures and inspection requirements.
- All personnel were reminded that lifting eyes are to be utilized for final positioning only. Electric motors are to be placed inside a designated basket for movement around the rig or they are to be slung by deck crew.
- Rig crews were reminded that lifting eyebolts are designed for final positioning on mounting brackets/foundation only and should not be utilized for overhead lifting and transport.

Note: Reference IADC Safety Alerts 09-02 and 03-19 for additional information.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

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Issued November 2013