

Safety Alert Number 159 issue 19.08.2010

Panel Grabs and Chains

There have been further incidents of the failure of Lifting Accessories when handling rail panels within the industry.

Two panel grabs supplied from different manufacturers have recently failed in the same mode due to misuse. These items are designed to handle in excess of the normal loading in a vertical manner but all the failures of the **main bolts highlighted below**, have been due to substantial side forces being applied. This failure may have been caused by the excavator cranes travelling or slewing at different speeds, striking site structures or intentionally striking the pillars on osprey wagons to move sleepers within the panel being loaded.

On pre delivery all these bolts should be checked for tightness and if any are found loose it is a sign that the bolts have been stretched and the item **MUST** be put into quarantine and not used.

There has also been a recent instance of a chain breaking while tandem lifting a panel and while possibly not the prime reason for failure, the hooking back onto the chain making a noose round the rail (snickling) reduces the capacity of the chain. Chains if not hooked direct onto a designated lifting point, should form a basket and be hooked back to the mother ring and have suitable protection from any sharp edges.



Thankfully there have been no injuries reported as a result of these failures but you are reminded that no personnel should approach or pass any machine or lifting operation without permission of the Machine / Crane Controller and the defined exclusion zone(s) set up on site to separate personnel from machines must be maintained at all times.

For further information and guidance please contact Ron Wells, Plant S.C. Manager, 07967 669503, ron.wells@bbrail.com



Display on Notice boards and brief to:

No Brief Required ALL Employees Managers Only Disciplines affected Sub-Contractors

Alliance/JV Partners All holders of track certs NWR/LU Signed attendance sheets required

Distribution date: 19.08.10 For display until: 20.09.10