

No: IGS 189

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Safe use of Quick Hitches fitted to OTP

This bulletin is for the attention of;

Line & Project Managers, Machine & Crane Controllers, Engineering Supervisors, COSS's, RRV Operators and OTP Suppliers.

Background

Following two separate recent incidents where there have been inadvertent attachment releases from RRV Excavator Cranes, this safety bulletin has been produced to make site staff aware of the necessary duties to be performed when attaching/detaching attachments from an RRV Excavator Crane that is fitted with a Quick Hitch.



A typical Semi automatic type of Quick Hitch



The intended application of an RRV Quick Hitch – buckets



The RRV operator inserting the safety pin in a Semi automatic Quick Hitch

Quick Hitch types

There are numerous Quick Hitch designs and types but only the semi automatic type has to be used with a safety pin. However for all quick Hitches to be used safely, no matter which type, it is essential that the RRV operator leaves his cab to visually inspect that Quick Hitch has been properly engaged before attempting to lift/use the attachment.

Who does what on site ?

It is the RRV operator's responsibility to get out of the cab to visually check that the attachment has been made correctly and insert the safety pin (where appropriate).

Machine/Crane Controllers - must check that the RRV operator has visually checked the integrity of the attachment, it is not the Machine/Crane Controllers job to check the attachment

General site safety use of Quick hitches

Lifting operations via a Quick Hitch must only be undertaken using a Quick Hitch that has a valid certificate of Thorough Examination, for both parts of the Hitch. NB; the use of buckets is not classed as a lifting operation.

Quick Hitch operations are not to be undertaken where any personnel may be underneath the excavator boom or Quick hitch and its attachment.

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