

SAFETY ALERT

Incident Title:
Failed Chain Block

Date of Incident:
January 2017

Incident Description and Details:

A partial failure of a chain block occurred whilst being used to hoist a 4.8 tonne 'payload' into position. Although there was no immediate loss of the load, the investigation report confirmed a manufacturing defect within the chain block. Subsequent engineering reports noted that a guide roller in the chain block dislodged due to an apparent twist in the load chain. The chain was not correctly checked for straightness after a chain extension/modification was made, nor was it checked to ensure the chain wasn't twisted prior to the lift occurring.

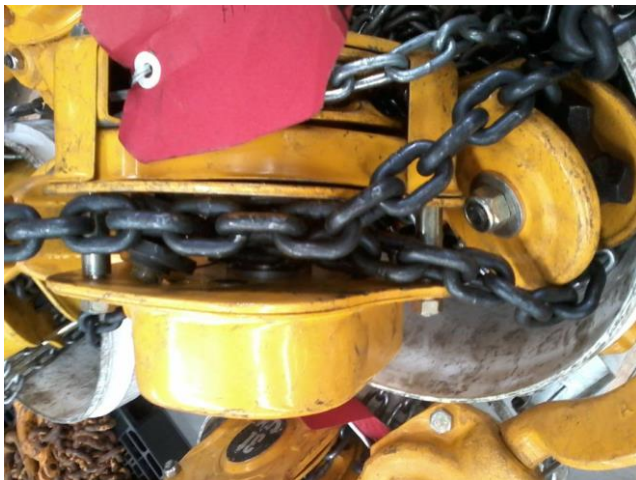


Photo 1: Image showing a splaying and where the escaped Guide roller was housed.

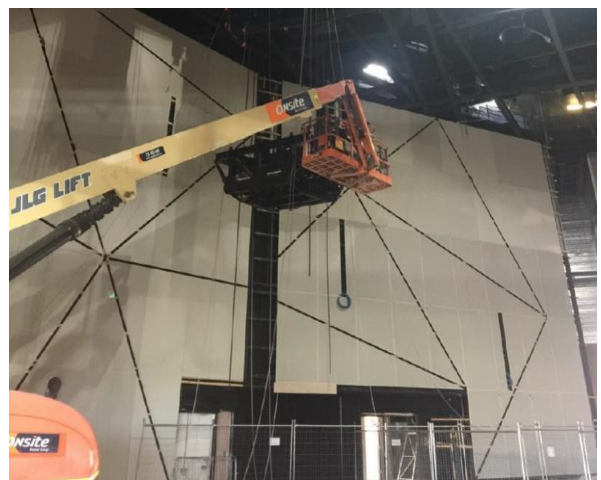


Photo 2: Arrow points to 4.8 tonne 'payload', 16 metres up

Recommendations/Lessons

- Blocks must be AS1418.2 compliant and inspected/tested by a certified operator to ensure the hand chain and load chains hang freely and are not twisted or knotted.
- Careful inspection should be made to the parts, such as hooks, load chain, braking device etc and the lubrication of the block. Inspections should always occur at the point of pre-use and set-up prior to the lift taking place.
- Before lifting, hooks and chains must be inspected to ensure they are securely attached and straight.
- Never exceed the marked Safe Working Load (SWL) of the block and ensure the chains are straight and not twisted prior to the lift.
- If the load slips, this is an indication of too high a load or a fault – Immediately Stop the lift and safely check the load and the appliance.
- Do not allow anyone to pass under or ride upon the load.