

Safety and health alert

22/95 Overhead travelling crane failure

Incident

The drive shaft between the electric motor and gear drive of a **Supercrane Electric Wire Hoist Model T4** sheared in two places while lifting a 1.5 tonne load, in a Maddington factory in March 1995. The hoist was eight years old and regularly used, and rated at a 5 tonne Safe Working Load.

The incident could have killed or seriously injured workers under or near the crane.

Factors

Lack of appropriate maintenance consistent with the crane's duty cycle;

Possible overloading over a number of years; and

Possible material fatigue.

Recommendations

Owners of overhead cranes with **Supercrane Electric Wire Model T4 Hoists** are encouraged to arrange a detailed assessment. Specifically, drive shafts should be tested with a non-destructive testing technique.

Overhead travelling cranes of up to 6 tonne capacity may contain **Supercrane Electric Wire Model T4 Hoists**.

The failure of this hoist may be an isolated incident, but if any person knows of similar incidents please advise WorkSafe Western Australia on 327 8718.)

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

Date: September 1995

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