

Safety and health alert

07/95 Accidents involving 'crown' and 'talon' elevating work platforms

Incident

A fatality in Queensland and at least 3 serious accidents in Western Australia occurred when workers were tipped from the baskets of MHP14 and THP14 trailer mounted elevating work platforms, following the failure of the basket levelling bearing linkage rod ends.

Factors

- Accidents have been caused by the failure of rod ends (Crown part number 1750-025) fitted to the lower levelling rods (Crown part number 1615). The failure of the thread connection between the rod end and lower levelling rod has also caused accidents.
- The failures appear to have resulted from poor maintenance and servicing of the machine by the owners, including continual steam or pressure cleaning without regreasing the bearing rod ends which leads to corrosion and eventual bearing seizure. Total or partial bearing seizure produces excessive stress, bending the threaded section of the rod end and resulting in stress cracking at the root of the threads.
- Elongation of the linkage may result if the machine is transported with the upper boom not fully lowered and tied down with correct boom tie down straps.
- The use of non-genuine replacement parts contributed to at least one accident.

Recommendations

In addition to normal maintenance and inspections of MHP14 and THP14 trailer mounted elevating work platforms, it is strongly recommended that:

1. The rod ends and their threaded connections to the lower levelling rods be immediately inspected by a competent person and the units only returned to service if considered serviceable.
2. The safe working load be reduced from 150 kg to 120 kg.
3. Occupancy of basket be reduced to one person.

These restrictions should continue until Crown Equipment Pty Ltd can advise that the problems have been identified and resolved.

NOTE: The relevant regulations appear at Part 3, Division 5 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 1996*.

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. A414211 Date: November 1995

