



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 09 – 02

DROPPED OBJECT – PAD EYES FAIL CAUSING NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

When lifting a newly constructed mud cleaning equipment skid for installation on a mud tank, three of the four lifting lug pad eyes failed at the welds located on the top of the Mud Cleaning System Lifting Frame. The skid fell to the ground. The shaker skid was approximately two feet off the ground when the welds failed. Fortunately, the crew members were using tag lines on the equipment and were at a safe distance from the lift. No injuries sustained and no equipment damaged.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Lack of quality control during fabrication permitted a substandard product to enter into service.
- Weld penetration on the pad eyes was found to be unacceptable by standard welding specifications.
- After construction of the skid, inspection of the welds was not thorough nor complete.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Instructed construction supervisors that all pad eyes used for lifting purposes need to be stamped with a unique identity mark or number to enable tracing of the pad eye to the inspection and certification documents.
- Personnel in charge of reconstruction or construction of skids were instructed to contract a third party qualified welding inspector to visually inspect and verify that all welding of lifting lugs and pad eyes meet the quality standards for welding.
- The company revised engineering and drafting procedures for drawings to include the wording that all critical welds on lifting lugs and base plates as well as other critical welds associated with lift and support structures be inspected by a qualified welding inspector for cracks, fatigue, penetration, etc.
- The company instructed quality control personnel that the Quality Control System needs to be improved and closely monitored.
- The company instructed company personnel in charge of rig construction projects to develop a Lifting Equipment Register and use it to log all pad eyes on the rig as they are welded, inspected and documented prior to leaving the rig up facility.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

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