CFMEU

Hazard Alert 2003

Lubeca Jump Up Formwork System Failure

Workers were extremely lucky at an Exhibition Street site when the Lubeca Jump Up Form System was damaged during the climbing operation. It was reported that during the jumping operation, the guide wheel on the central shear key beam balance jammed in a wall penetration. As the jump continued, the bolts holding the shear key beam to the vertical square hollow section sheared. There was substantial damage to the steel ledger platform**.**

Contributing Factors:

- No spotter was present in the box where the failure occurred.
- There was insufficient supervision to ensure that spotters are present at critical areas and to ensure the climbing procedures are followed.
- The guide wheels were not tied back to prevent the guide wheel catching on the penetration.
- No overload device has been built into the system to prevent serious damage occurring in the event of parts of the system being obstructed.
- The employer did not ensure that risks associated with the jump up form and associated systems of work including operation of the plant were eliminated or reduced so far as is practical.

What About the Rest of the Lubeca Systems?

WorkCover asked the same question. WorkCover has asked Lubeca to inform users of Lubeca Jump Up Formwork Systems currently in use in Victoria of this occurrence to prevent a re-occurrence.

In the Meantime

If there is a Lubeca Jump Up Formwork System (or another one that's a bit dodgy) on your job and it hasn't been checked, don't use it until you know that an engineer has provided a written report showing that it is structurally sound, and a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for installation operation and dismantling process of the Jump Up Formwork System are provided, as well as a system of work, with a check list for each jump of the system is done.

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