

IMCA Safety Flash 14/16

May 2016

These flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learnt from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

The effectiveness of the IMCA safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents. Please consider adding the IMCA secretariat (imca@imca-int.com) to your internal distribution list for safety alerts and/or manually submitting information on specific incidents you consider may be relevant. All information will be anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to IMCA members. Where these are particularly relevant, these may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided at www.imca-int.com/links. Additional links should be submitted to webmaster@imca-int.com

Any actions, lessons learnt, recommendations and suggestions in IMCA safety flashes are generated by the submitting organisation. IMCA safety flashes provide, in good faith, safety information for the benefit of members and do not necessarily constitute IMCA guidance, nor represent the official view of the Association or its members.

Summary

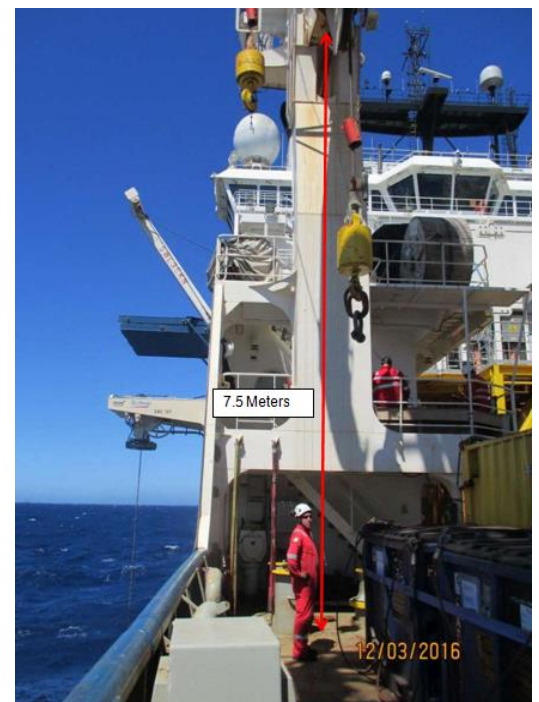
This safety flash covers three dropped object incidents. Members are reminded that IMCA has recently published a new video on dropped objects – *IMCA SEL 039 – Technip DROPS*. This video highlights the importance of safe working practices not only to offshore personnel but also to their families at home. The video is available from the IMCA website <http://www.imca-int.com/safety-environment-and-legislation/safety-environment-and-legislation-videos/sel-039.aspx>.

1 Serious Incident: Pad Eye Fell From Crane Boom and Struck Rigger

A member has reported a potentially very serious near miss incident in which a crewman was struck by a falling object. The incident took place when a 50 Te deck crane had just recovered a high pressure running tool and was being placed back into the boom rest. A rigger was preparing to secure a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) hook into a safe recess when a fixed pad eye (1.78 kg) on the knuckle boom broke free, fell 8.5 metres and struck the rigger. The pad eye hit a glancing blow on his safety helmet and down to his right forearm. The rigger was unharmed and after examination he was cleared for full duties.

Our member's investigation revealed the following:

- ♦ the pad eye was damaged and extensively corroded, likely from unreported impact or damage;
- ♦ the pad eye's poor condition and corrosion was not identified by a number of persons, though there had been a number of inspections and checks over several months. However defects had become 'normalised';
- ♦ a previous unreported or unnoticed damage to the crane boom pad eye had occurred;
- ♦ when the crane was stowed on the crane rest, the pad eye on the knuckle boom was seen to be too close to the crane rest. This increased the likelihood of operator error and clashes.



Our member suggested the following actions:

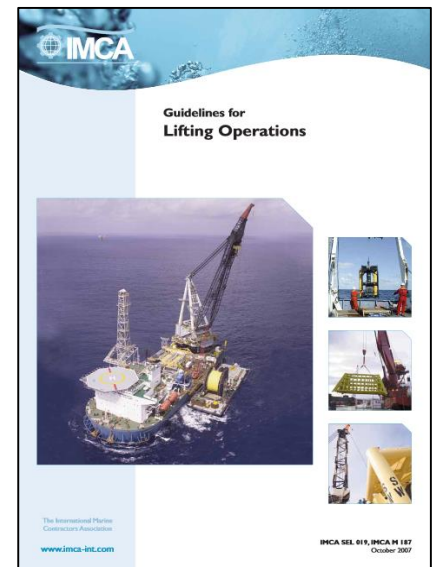
- ♦ assess all crane booms for potential for boom/crane rest damage or clashes;
- ♦ ensure that crane checks and inspections are carried out regularly and thoroughly, particularly checking corrosion, damage or defects;
- ♦ check carefully to ensure that crane boom rests, and the likelihood of dropped objects from crane boom and rests, are included in crane inspections and dropped object surveys.

Members will be aware that in recent times there have been a number of incidents reported in which objects have fallen from the crane itself. This incident forms a timely reminder to redouble our efforts to check areas that might otherwise be overlooked in the search for potential dropped objects.

Members may wish to refer to the following incidents (search words: *crane, dropped*):

- ♦ **IMCA SF 02/15** – Incident 1 – *Dropped object near miss: falling crane block*;
- ♦ **IMCA SF 10/15** – Incident 1 – *Near miss: dropped object fell from crane boom*;
- ♦ **IMCA SF 21/15** – Incident 1 – *High potential near miss: safe working load (SWL) plate fell from crane auxiliary block*; and Incident 2 – *Dropped object near miss: small parts falling from crane rest*.

Members are also reminded of **IMCA SEL 019** – *Guidelines for lifting operations*.



2 Potential Dropped Object – Inbound Cargo

The Marine Safety Forum (MSF) has published a safety alert regarding a potential dropped object. Back-loading of a large piece of equipment took place from an offshore location. Subsequently on the quayside it was discovered that a steel blanking plate had been stored in the fork-lift pocket of this piece of equipment whilst it had been in service offshore. The unit had been offshore for around two years. This plate had potential to cause serious harm had it fallen out and dropped.

Further information is available at <http://www.marinesafetyforum.org/images/msf-safety-alert-16.04.pdf>. Members may also wish to review the following similar incidents (search words: *cargo, dropped, potential*):

- ♦ **IMCA SF 08/11** – Incident 2 – *Recent near miss incidents involving potential dropped objects*;
- ♦ **IMCA SF 19/14** – Incident 3 – *Near miss: dropped object from cargo*.



3 Dropped Object – Tank Dog

The MSF has published a safety alert regarding an incident in which a hatch securing 'dog' was found on the cargo deck of a platform supply vessel (PSV). The item was close to the stowage position of a back-loaded tank. It was established that the grub screw holding the anchor pin in place had worked loose, allowing the 'dog' to come adrift and fall to the deck of the vessel.

Further information can be found from <http://www.marinesafetyforum.org/images/msf-safety-alert-16.08.pdf>.

Members may wish to review the following similar incident (search word: *grub screw*):

- ♦ **IMCA SF 04/10** – Incident 2 – *Falling object*.

