

CFMEU SAFETY ALERT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Lifting equipment failure during precast panel rotation

Authored by Bob Benkesser on 17th July 2020



Project: Curtin University – School of Design & Built Environment (SoDBE)

Builder: Lend Lease, **Subcontractor:** WA Universal Rigging & Cranes

Description of incident:

On the 11th of June 2020 during the lifting and rotation task of a 4.9T precast concrete panel for installation, an equalizing sheave block that was being used for the panel's rotation, opened allowing the wire rope being used for equalisation during the rotation of the panel to roll out of the sheave block.

This resulted in one corner of the precast panel dropping to the ground falling approximately 1m.

The Panel remained hooked off the cranes axillary winch rope which held the other end of the Panel. This prevented the Panel from falling fully to the ground uncontrolled.

Key Learnings:

- Incorrect set up of the rigging equipment (sheave block) as the sheave pin/bolt was not fully engaged across the sheave plates and the safety pin was not in place.
- High Risk Work License (HRWL) holders such as Riggers and Dogmen must ensure that work activities meet required HRWL standards and that they check lifting and rigging equipment before each use and constantly during lifting operations.
- Any changes or alterations must be reviewed and approved by lifting supervisors and/or coordinators.
- Lifting / Rigging Supervisors and LLB Lifting Coordinators must monitor rigging equipment set up and check rigging set ups before use and at each change of rigging equipment. This must be supported by ongoing monitoring of lifting operations.

Supervisors must ensure that all lifting rigging equipment is fit for purpose, has been tested and tagged, a lifting rigging equipment register is maintained, rigging is arranged as specified in relevant lift studies and that employees have time to properly inspect the equipment prior to each use.

Riggers & dogmen must inspect lifting rigging equipment prior to each use to ensure it is free of defects, is in current test date and is arranged as specified in the relevant lift study. Any equipment that is out of inspection date, damaged or faulty must be removed and tagged out of service.

The Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 Division 3 — Dogging work and rigging work specifies the need to inspect lifting gear for suitability and condition

REPORT UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES - CALL (08) 9228 6900 OR EMAIL SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM

Stand up. Speak out. Come home.

Authorised by Mick Buchan, State Secretary, CFMEU WA, 80 Beaufort St Perth