

Red Stripe

Subject: Potentially fatal accident: Worker injured by falling load
Location: Strip Products MLE, IJmuiden, Sinter plant
Date: 20 June 2019 **Date of incident:** 17 December 2018
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What happened

On Monday 17 December 2018 two mechanics (mechanic L and mechanic B) prepared the change of two conveyor belts which would be changed the next day. The work for that day consisted of bringing the two conveyor belts on location with the help of a radio-controlled crane.

After picking up the work permit, the two mechanics drove to the location where the rolls could be lifted through a hoisting hole. It was agreed that mechanic L would start working on the two conveyor belts and mechanic B would go to the upper platform (15 metres above the means of transport) to operate the crane. At the sign of mechanic L, mechanic B was going to lift the two conveyor belts. From the upper platform, mechanic B had a good view on the load. Mechanic L had meanwhile walked away from the means of transport and was outside the field of vision of mechanic B. When the load was up, one roll of conveyor belt suddenly fell down and bumped into mechanic L via the railing of the lower platform, the landfill chute and the side of the transport trolley.

Mechanic B went straight down and saw mechanic L lying on the ground. Mechanic L was unconscious, so mechanic B called the emergency organization (55555).

Mechanic L was transported by ambulance to the hospital where several internal injuries were found.

The way in which the load was shackled is not yet clear.

Remaining load on the upper platform



View from upper platform through hoisting hole



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Findings

- Two rolls of conveyor belt were lifted simultaneously.
- It is not clear how the roller conveyor belt, which was dropped, was shackled.
- The work permit and BOWR (used in IJmuiden, translation is: assessment list work and surrounding related risks) process was not carried out correctly. This concerns the content, the associated procedure and the way in which we comply with the measures relating to the identified risks (behaviour).
- The risks of the preparatory work were not included in the work permit and BOWR.
- No hoisting plan had been drawn up for the hoisting work.
- Two months before the work was carried out, the employees involved were once again certified to 'take on loads'.
- Instructions for use concerning the use of lifting equipment from the manufacturer do not reach the users.
- QHSE regulations (used in IJmuiden, translation is: regulations Quality, Health, Safety and Environment) are insufficiently applied.

Provisional actions

- Consult with the supplier of lifting belts about the (possible) shortcomings in the instructions for use with regard to the extension of lifting belts.
- Within HTD, all employees who have completed at least the training course on load handling are given an instruction on how to handle slings, steel slings and chains. This instruction will be made available to the IJmuiden site and the contractors.
- QHSE 3.14 describes the conditions under which a lifting plan is required. The regime manager of hoisting and lifting equipment is working on the further development of this for HTD so that there is a defined description about the necessity and manner of completing the hoisting plan. As soon as it is ready, the protocol will be made available for the IJmuiden site and the contractors.
- Within IJmuiden, actions are underway to improve awareness of the QHSE regulations, to intensify the supervision of compliance with these regulations and to motivate to address each other to account in the event of deviations from these regulations.

Recommendations

- As soon as the (revised) User Instruction on lifting equipment is available, share it extensively with the employees and include it as part of the relevant training courses.
- As soon as the details of the hoisting plan are available, the employees should be informed of the content of the hoisting plan and should ensure that it is applied.
- Ensure that measures specified in the work permit and the BOWR are implemented.
- Ensure that job preparation activities are assessed for possible risks and include this in a separate work permit/BOWR.
- Ensure that the guidelines as included in the QHSE regulations are known and speak to each other about any deviations from them.