



# SAFETY FEEDBACK NOTICE

## DROPPED CONTAINER

EP

DGEP / HSE

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### Introduction

A high potential incident occurred in August 2005 in a Total Group EP affiliate when a container weighing 4450 kg fell about 15 metres onto a supply boat during a lift by the platform crane.

### Description

Wind 22 – 27 knots. Waves 3.5 – 4 m. The supply boat was steady on location. Lifting was smooth. The crane started to turn and boom down. The crane whip line failed suddenly and the container fell onto other containers on the supply boat deck. Free cable fell back onto the deck and crane cabin.

No-one was injured and damage was limited. But the consequences could have been much worse.



### Investigations



The cable was 4 years 9 months old. It had been poorly lubricated. Its external appearance was rusty with hardened grease and there were areas of broken wires. Internally the cable had been seriously affected by corrosion (photo left).

The crane Planned Maintenance had been based on an old job instruction, interpreted as requiring a 4 yearly cable change out which was overdue. The cable change date had been wrongly entered when transferring data to SAP. Cable shortening, which should have been done annually, was never performed. Cable greasing was not described properly in the procedure.

In fact the PM had not been updated with the recommendations in GS EXP 211. Currently the GS requires cable change out every 2 years or NDT annually.

### Recommendations

- Execute crane (and other lifting devices like lifeboat davits) PM's in line with CR EP EXP 200, CR EP EXP 210 and GS EP EXP 211. Note: a revision to GS EP EXP 211 is underway. This will refer to daily and weekly checks; 6 monthly detailed visual inspections by a Competent Person; annual detailed electromagnetic inspection or annual representative strength test or 30 monthly cable replacement; maximum time before a cable must be replaced.
- Implement CR EP HSE 043, especially appointing a Competent Person Lifting Operations.
- Ensure responsibilities for PM's are clearly defined – this is particularly important where maintenance services are contracted out. Make sure the contractor is aware of changes to regulations, procedures etc. Verify that PM's are being completed correctly.
- An inventory of crane cables (and other like lifeboat cables, tugger winch cables, burner boom cables etc) must be available, showing the date of manufacture, reception date, date of installation, inspection dates and results, lubrication dates.
- Make sure crane drivers and mechanics are trained in cable external visual inspection.
- Crane drivers must complete a crane daily inspection. Use API RP 2D and API 9A for reference.
- Regularly “slip and cut” cables. But take account of the effects of repeated cable shortening.
- Refer to GS STR 002 for information regarding the choice of cable type.
- Finally, note that recommendations for improvement of lifting in the affiliate concerned had been made after a Lifting Audit (Nov 2004) and Opersafe Audit (Dec 2004); such audits only have value if their recommendations are acted upon.

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