

## Bolt failures on Lawson ROV launch and recovery systems

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Members are alerted to the attached safety flash from Lawson Engineers Ltd, manufacturers of launch and recovery systems, covering a recent failure of bolts in a 3000m launch and recovery system which allowed a latched-in tether management system (TMS) and ROV to fall to the deck.

### LAWSON ENGINEERS LTD

#### Safety Flash – Routine Fastener Inspection



**FAO:** All Lawsons 3000m Launch and Recovery System (LARS) operators.  
**RE:** Routine Fastener Inspection

**A recent failure has highlighted the importance of frequent fastener inspection as part of essential routine maintenance.**

#### Incident Description:

A failure of bolts connecting the snubber docking box and sprung frame assembly through the snubber rotate bearing to the raise-lower frame occurred. This allowed these assemblies to separate from the snubber and the latched in TMS and ROV to fall to the deck. No injuries were reported.

#### Conclusions Reached After thorough investigation:

It is believed that in this instance failure occurred after several bolts had, over time, loosened to the point of falling out transferring all load to the remaining bolts (fewer than half the bolts remained). These failed in a chain reaction allowing the suspended docking box, sprung assembly, TMS and ROV to fall.

#### Measures necessary to prevent future failures:

Ensure that routine maintenance is carried out as per your maintenance and operations manual. If necessary additional/ up-dated copies of this manual are available, contact LEL for details. It is worth noting that where system installation increases likelihood of bolts loosening due to factors not foreseeable by LEL (excessive vibration on deck, smaller than allowable vessel etc) it will be necessary to reduce the inspection period.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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