Finger crushed under Tether Management System (TMS) protection guard

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A worker suffered a crushed finger when the protection guard of a Saab Seaeye TMS8 Tether Management System fell on their finger.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:

Line of fire

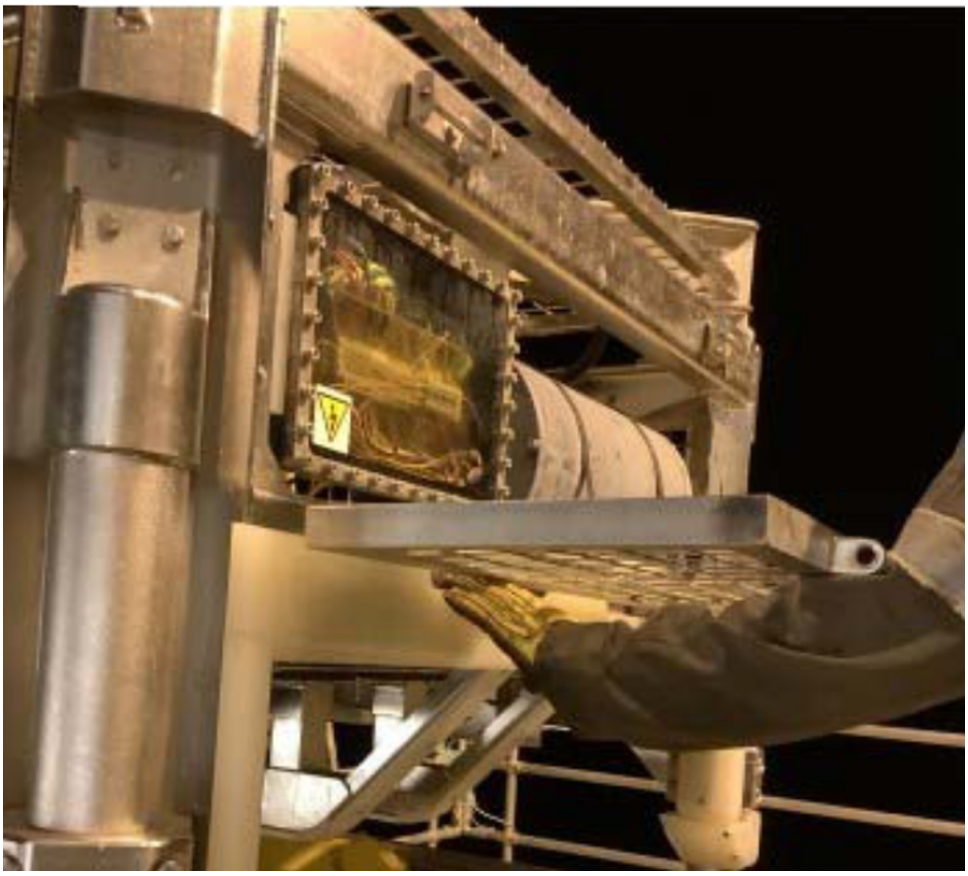
What happened?

The worker was closing and securing the protection guard and lost grip on the guard.

The guard fell down and trapped the left ring fingertip between the guard and the TMS frame.

Upon removal of the glove it was identified the fingertip was damaged.

The injured person went straight to the medic, who verified that the injury warranted hospitalisation, and the injured person was taken to hospital onshore.



What went right?

- The injured person received medical help immediately and could be taken ashore for treatment quickly.

What went wrong? What was the cause?

- With the two top pins removed, the TMS guard can fall down if not safely supported – as when grip is lost.
- It was cold; there was no weather protection – cold hands.
- The worker was keen to complete the task in hand.
- The worker was not wearing the correct type of gloves.
- The task not fully risk accessed; there was no specific procedure/training to follow for guard removal.

Actions

The design of guards and securing method is under review for potential improvements.

In the meantime a procedure for safe guard removal and refitting was generated and issued to all TMS8 owners as detailed in the bulletin here and copied below.

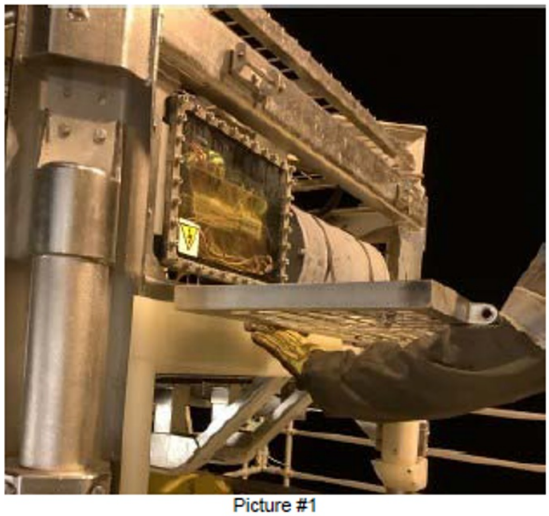
Engineering Advice Note (EAN) No. 183

URGENT SAFETY ADVICE - TMS8 SIDE PROTECTION GUARDS

Affected parts: All Systems which use Saab Seaeye TMS8 system.

Introduction

An incident occurred whereby a person working on a Saab Seaeye TMS8 sustained a finger injury as they were closing/locking a protection guard on the TMS8. The person lost grip of the guard and with only the lower pins being secured, the guard fell back down and the persons ring finger got caught between the guard and the TMS frame (see example picture #1).



Picture #1

Please follow the below procedure to remove and refit the guards in order to prevent this type of incident from reoccurring.

WARNING:

- Correct PPE to be worn when handling the guards.
- 2 people are recommended for safe removal and refitting.
- Never remove the top pins first as the guard will fall down if unsupported, risking injury or damage.
- Do not attempt to work with the guard only secured by two pins (either top or bottom).
- Do not prop or tie up the guard in any way.
- Complete removal of the guard from the TMS8 is required before any further work is carried out.

Removal: Step 1
Remove the two bottom pins only.

Removal – Step 2
With two people, support the guard from both ends securely and remove the two top pins.

Removal – Step 3
With two people, carefully take the guard away from the TMS frame and store in a suitable location.

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