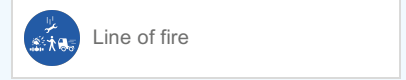


UK HSE: Service lifts on offshore and onshore wind turbines

Safety Flash Published on 2 July 2024 Generated on 24 January 2025 IMCA SF 13/24

The UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has published Safety bulletin ED01-2024 on *Service lifts in offshore and onshore wind turbines*.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



What happened?

A wind turbine service technician suffered serious injuries when his hand was trapped between fixed and moving parts of a service lift. The worker was able to place his hand into an aperture whilst sending the service lift down using the 'one touch to operate' external controls.

The external controls were positioned on the moving parts, and the design of the landing gates and associated guarding did not prevent him reaching the moving lift car which crushed his hand against the gate.

What was the cause?

Design of the base and the upper-level landing gates and associated guarding of a service lift in a wind turbine did not prevent access to the moving lift car. It was possible to reach the moving lift car and become crushed or sheared by it against the rigid portions of the gate.

In addition, failure to follow established standards for reach distances meant that the external controls were not situated in a position of sufficient distance from the danger zone.

The UK HSE noted that:

An absence of defined industry standards for the safe design of service lifts within wind turbines has resulted in discrepancies in the application of required safeguards by designers and manufacturers. This is a potential risk to users. Hazards from the design, guarding, and positioning of controls should be identified and addressed by manufacturers or suppliers. A new standard, 'BS EN 81-44 – *Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts. Special lifts for the transport of persons and goods. Part 44. Lifting appliances in wind turbines*' is due to be published. This standard sets the benchmark for the safe design of service lifts and associated safeguards.

The UK HSE noted further that:

- Duty holders who operate wind turbines, and employers of persons who operate or undertake maintenance activities on such wind turbines, should immediately check the design of gates, associated guarding, and the position of the external controls of lifts in use.
- If existing guarding or the position of the external controls is inadequate, you

should reposition controls and/or install sufficient guarding. You should either withdraw lifts from use or implement short term suitable control measures to mitigate risks until this work is complete.

- Control measures can allow short-term continued use of the lift until the repositioning of the external controls and/or the installation of additional guarding can be completed.
- Manufacturers and suppliers should help duty holders who operate lifts, or employers of users of lifts, that they have supplied, to eliminate these hazards, and ensure that all lifts supplied satisfy the appropriate regulatory requirements.

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