High potential incident: gantry hoist failure

Safety Flash Published on **6 July 2020** Generated on **28 January 2026** IMCA SF 20/20

IOGP Life Saving Rules:

Safe mechanical lifting

What happened?

An electrically powered gantry hoist failed whilst under load dropping cargo and lifting equipment to deck. The incident occurred during a lift of 500 kg of palletised provisions onto the vessel.

The failure resulted in the provisions falling onto the deck. The gantry hoist housing included a chain box containing approximately 10 m of 10 mm chain weighing approximately 19 kg which dropped 4 m (12 ft) onto the deck.

There were no injuries. However, there was potential for serious or fatal injury.

What were the causes? What went wrong?

The hoist motor / gearbox housing securing bolts failed due to excessive and previously unidentified internal corrosion.

What actions were taken?

Review and improvement of:

- Procurement process to emphasise the importance of ensuring that equipment is selected by a competent person, is suitable for its intended purpose and operating environment.
- Mechanical lifting equipment procedure modified to further emphasise the importance of complying with the procurement process and the manufacture's installation, use and maintenance requirements.
- Enhanced arrangements for the management and control of equipment maintenance and inspection records and general record keeping.

Members may wish to refer to

- IMCA HSS019 *Guidelines for lifting operations*
- Two short "*Are you prepared to work safely?*" videos: Lifting operations, Lifting equipment

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