High Potential Incident Alert - 189

March 2016

Use of incomplete lifting gear

During the removal of a motor-operated valve (MOV), the securing mechanism (two nuts) on a 'P' rigging screw at one end of the spreader bar being used to lift the valve failed when the nuts stripped/pulled off the screw thread.

This resulted in the rigging screw pulling through the spreader bar and the 7.5-tonne MOV dropping about 0.3 metres to the decking on the platform.

Rigging at the other end of the spreader did not fail and remained secured to the valve.

There were no injuries nor any damage to the valve or platform.

CRITICAL FACTORS

Incomplete rigging had been provided to the work crew – not all items specified on the rigging drawings were procured.

The goods receipting processes did not identify this short-fall.

Rigging components used to fill the short-fall were gathered on board the platform – this resulted in imperial nuts being inadvertently fit to a metric rigging screw.

The change in rigging components was neither identified nor communicated outside the immediate work group.

KEY LESSONS

Robust procurement and goods receipt processes must be applied to all purchases.

Ensure that any changes to rigging arrangements are identified, communicated and subjected to appropriate review and approval.

Ensure that appropriate rigour is applied through supervision and work authorisation (PTW) processes to identify and prevent work deviating from the plan.

Promote and maintain an open culture such that any deviation from plan results in a universal application of an "Authority to Stop an Unsafe Task".

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