

IMCA Safety Flash 11/09

August 2009

These flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learnt from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

The effectiveness of the IMCA safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents. Please consider adding the IMCA secretariat (imca@imca-int.com) to your internal distribution list for safety alerts and/or manually submitting information on specific incidents you consider may be relevant. All information will be anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to IMCA members. Where these are particularly relevant, these may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided at www.imca-int.com/links. Additional links should be submitted to webmaster@imca-int.com

I Falling Object – Struck by Crane Stop/Striker Plate

A member has reported an incident in which workers were struck by a falling crane stop/striker plate, causing injuries. Two third-party contractors were carrying out non-destructive testing (NDT), lubrication and cutting back vessel crane wires. Whilst one of the contractors was working on a whip line and removing the split pin, the stop/striker plate, weighing 5kg, fell from a stuck position against the chandelier and slid approximately 40m down the wire. One contractor sustained a fractured thumb, the other a minor first aid injury.

Following investigation, the following lessons were drawn from the incident:

- ◆ The introduction of stop/striker plates had not been formally risk assessed, including the need for permanently fixing the plates into position;
- ◆ Little documented history existed for the design and installation of stop/striker plates;
- ◆ Associated task-based risk assessment and toolbox talk did not include information relating the existence of striker plates;
- ◆ Third parties were not advised about ongoing problems with stop/striker plates sticking at the chandelier;
- ◆ Safety observations previously raised regarding the possibility of stop/striker plates sticking to the chandelier had not been fully addressed;
- ◆ There was an additional person involved in the task, beyond that identified within the permit to work.



Stop/striker plate