Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

everyone home safe every day

Failure of swivel hook

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

Ref: NRA 18/03

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Location: Manchester

Contact: Martyn Willis, Rail Plant Support Engineer

Overview

Whilst unloading one tonne ballast bags using an RRV and bag lifter the castellated securing nut on the lifting hook worked free and became detached from the coupling ring. The hook and bag lifter had been used several times within the shift, however as the Crane Controller attached the bag lifter to the next bag of ballast, and instructed the Machine Operator to lift the bag, the castellated securing nut came off and the hook separated from the RRVs boom.

The investigation has identified the failed hook is similar to the yellow one shown in the LH picture above, This has a castellated securing nut with a bronze bush and is NOT designed to be rotated with a load suspended.

The red hook in the RH picture has a ball bearing swivel and can be rotated with the load suspended.

Crane controllers and Machine Operators are to ensure they recognise the type of lifting hook fitted. If they have a lifting hook with a castellated securing nut the load should not be rotated whilst it is suspended.

Immediate action required

- Prior to commencing lifting operations Crane Controllers and Machine Operators must satisfy themselves that they recognise which type of lifting hook is fitted, and its correct method of use.
- The plant hire company involved has instigated a campaign change of all hooks on their machines.

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