

CLASSIFICATION NEWS

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CLASSIFICATION ALERT Deck crane slew bearing rocking tests

APPLICABILITY All shipowners and operators

INFORMATION A number of incidents have occurred recently involving failure of the slew bearings of ships' cargo deck cranes, resulting in crane losses and serious injury to personnel. These failures have been caused by undetected excessive wear in the slew bearings.

Rocking tests

Crane manufacturers generally recommend that 'rocking tests' are carried out every six months in accordance with their instructions, and that the results are recorded and monitored in order to ensure the wear tolerances remain within the limits permitted by the designers.

Cranes which are particularly at risk are those with single ball race slew bearings. Cranes fitted with this type of slew bearing must have rocking tests carried out, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, to determine that the amount of wear in the bearing races is within permitted limits.

Although cranes with single ball race slew bearings are considered to be most at risk, rocking tests on all deck cranes, where recommended by the crane manufacturer, must be carried out and the results must be recorded.

Lloyd's Register surveyors are being instructed to review the results of rocking tests at all future Annual Thorough Surveys. If no rocking test has been carried out in the previous six months, the crane in question will not be certified for further use. It will also be recommended that the crane is taken out of service and the Lifting Appliance Register will be endorsed accordingly.

HELP US TO HELP YOU – if you are an owner or operator and require further assistance, please get in touch with your local Lloyd's Register Group office at the earliest opportunity and we will be happy to assist.

Further information

Contact: Steve Wehrle
T +44 (0)20 7423 1905
F +44 (0)20 7423 2053
E steve.wehrle@lr.org

www.lr.org

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