

Safety Alert No: 47



Lifting Equipment Failure

What happened?



A dangerous occurrence has recently been recorded in relation to the failure of a removable lifting eye whilst a lifting operation was being carried out on a 371kg sluce valve. The failure was immediate and approx. 6" off the lifting surface and no injuries were recorded, however the consequences could have been for more severe.

Investigations are on-going both within the company's Safety dept. and with the supplier but initial findings are:

- Lifting eyes for these valves are supplied fitted (screwed in) but are not a proprietary part of the original valve equipment being removable and therefore are classed as lifting equipment.
- No CE marks, Certificate of Thorough Examination or other form of proof of testing or suitability for the task has been made available in relation to point one above.
- Further investigations on remaining valves on this project have shown this cast iron, stainless coated type of eye has an inherent fault and the remaining items have all been taken out of service.
- A formal lifting plan was available and up to date however these items were not identified due to change of supplier.

Lessons to be learnt/Action to be taken

- All valves fitted with "removable" lifting points must be inspected, with particular attention required for valves manufactured by SIGMA.
- Lifting accessories found without CE markings or with no Certificate of Thorough Examination **MUST** be taken out of service and the findings reported to Supervisors & the Safety Department.

Lifting plans must be reviewed and updated to reflect any changes in lifting equipment, accessories, lifting techniques or the specified loads

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