

Marine Safety Flash

A15-28 (15th December)



Dropped Base Frame of the Lubricator Pump

Incident Overview

During routine maintenance of vessel's crane, the base frame of a pneumatic grease lubricator pump fell 13.6 metres from the boom walkway to the barricaded exclusion zone on the main deck below.

The base frame of the lubricator pump, which is secured by two clamping nuts, became detached from the unit's cabinet whilst being carried along the boom walkway. This allowed the base to fall to the walkway and then to the deck. No personnel (including spotters) were at risk of contact with the falling object because the exclusion zone was barricaded in accordance with procedure.



Location of dropped object

Key Findings

- Task stopped immediately.
- Top part of grease pump unit moved to prevent further dropped objects (grease).
- Incident was reported in accordance with project requirements.



Grease lubricator pump and base frame

Recommendations

1. Securing arrangements for equipment used at heights shall be fail safe to mitigate risk of dropped object(s).
2. Risk Assessments tools (e.g. 5x5's, JHA's) should be used to identify specific dropped object potentials.
3. Equipment to be used at heights should be evaluated as being fit for purpose and suitable alternatives used if risks associated with dropped objects can be further mitigated.