

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 09/14

Issued: 6th May 2009

Subject: Wrong Slings for Lifting Flex Joint Off Boat

Summary:

A flex joint was lifted from the supply boat to the rig. Upon closer inspection on deck it was found that 2 x 5MT slings were used to lift the joint. The weight of the flex joint was 14MT, and the slings were not of sufficient rating for the lift. Furthermore, the slings had been choked, lowering their SWL. The flex joint was known to have 5MT slings attached by the rig, boat and supply base but to be kept on the vessel until higher-rated slings were available. The flex joint was not manifested since it was not to be lifted, therefore; the weight of the joint was not in the manifest. Miscommunication between the supply boat and the rig resulted in the flex joint being lifted onboard during night shift before having more substantial slings attached. No personnel were hurt and no material was damaged. The area was barriered off, meaning if the flex joint had fallen, material damage would have been the risk.

Findings:

- Sea fastening slings were not removed, and it was assumed that they were the lifting slings of the flex joint.
- The rating of the **slings were not checked before loading the joint onto the supply vessel onshore**, and **also not checked before lifting the joint from the supply boat to the rig**.
- The **joint was inadequately quarantined** for not being lifted.
- Insufficient handover between night and day shift.
- The **flex joint was not manifested**, and resulting in the weight of the joint unknown to involved people.

Actions/ Learning Points:

- Review and improve assurance process to **ensure rating checks of equipment**.
- **Review crew change handover process within vessel contractor**
- Ensure **procedure for quarantining equipment is followed** and that all items are included on manifest
- **Remove items with non-compliant lifting equipment unless fully agreed and communicated otherwise.**
- **Do not put pressure on vessel/rig crew to perform lifts without full assessment of task and risks involved.**

