

Another Incident of Interference with the Safety Controls on a Hoist

All Hoists and Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs) have in-built safety limit switches and other inherent safety features to **PREVENT dangerous / unsafe operations and / or overloading of the Hoist / MEWP**. These limit switches etc. are designed to ensure the safety of the users of such equipment, their colleagues and members of the general public.

In September 2011, a Safety Alert was issued which showed how an interlock switch on an Altec Hoist - called the 'Boom Stow Switch' - **had been tied down**. We also have previously issued Safety Alerts in relation to **interference with Safety Limit Switches in Manitou Telescopic Handlers**.

Another Incident of Interference with the Boom Stow Switch of a Versalift Hoist was discovered last week!

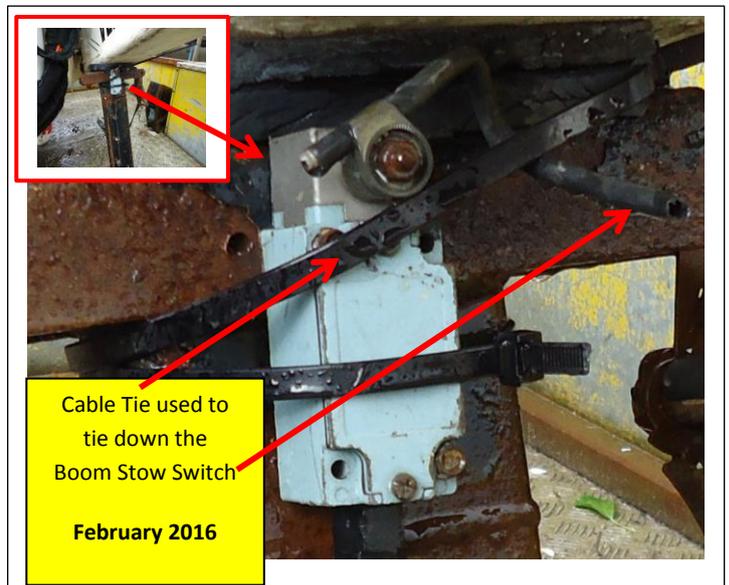
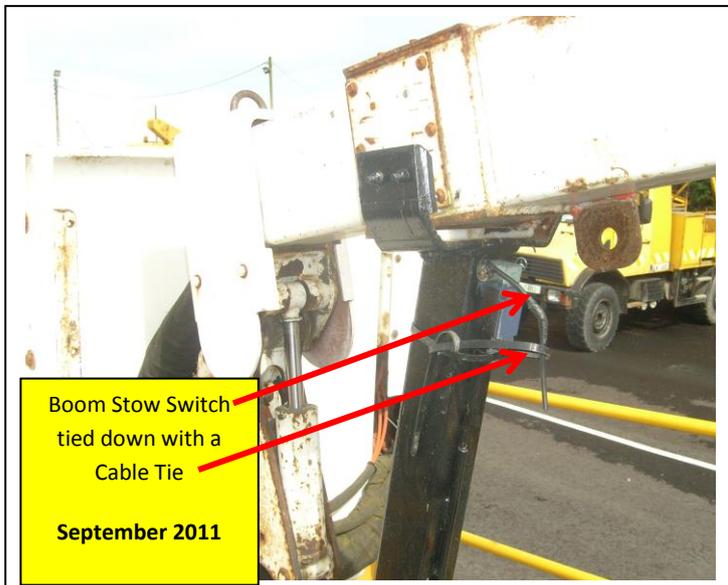
Under normal operation, the Boom Stow Switch enables the deployment or retraction of the stabilisers **BUT ONLY** when the Boom is correctly stowed **IN ITS REST OR PARKED POSITION**.

WITH THE BOOM STOW SWITCH TIED DOWN – as shown in these two photographs – the **INTERLOCK SAFETY SYSTEM IS BY-PASSED** and the following outcomes can occur:

- The stabilisers can be retracted when the boom is in the air
- The boom can be operated with the stabilisers in the retracted position

Both these situations seriously compromise the stability of the Hoist!

Put simply, the Hoist Operator is exposed to the risk of the hoist OVER-TURNING which could result in SERIOUS OR FATAL INJURIES!



ANY PERSON WHO INTERFERES WITH THESE SAFETY LIMIT SWITCHES IS PUTTING HIM/HERSELF, HIS/HER COLLEAGUES AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT RISK OF SERIOUS OR FATAL INJURIES!



STOP THIS DANGEROUS PRACTICE NOW!



**Another Incident of Interference with
the Safety Controls on a Hoist**

Follow Up Actions

1. Brief all Hoist / MEWP Operators (including Contractors' staff) on this **Safety Critical Incident**
Action By: **All Supervisors (both ESB Networks and Contractors) - IMMEDIATELY**
2. **Only Competent Hoist / MEWP Operators SHALL operate Hoists / MEWPS**
3. **Check ALL Hoists / MEWPs – whether owned or hired by ESB, OR owned or hired by Contractors working for ESB.**

The following tests shall be carried out on ALL Hoists / MEWPs to ensure they are 'fit for purpose and in perfect operating condition'

- a. **Visually confirm that the Boom Stow Switch is in its normal position and has NOT BEEN INTERFERED WITH OR DISABLED.**

Action By: **All Hoist / MEWP Operators (both ESB Networks and Contractors) DAILY BEFORE USE.**

- b. On level ground with the stabilisers deployed, **using the ground controls** the Hoist / MEWP Operator raises the boom **approx. 1.0m** above its parking position. **Now attempt to raise the stabilisers. This should not happen!**

If the stabilisers can be raised, quarantine the equipment and arrange for repairs / replacement – as necessary.

These two Pre-Use Checks are in addition to the full range of Pre-Operational Checks that shall be carried out DAILY.

Action By: **All Hoist / MEWP Operators (both ESB Networks and Contractors) DAILY BEFORE USE.**

4. All Hoists / MEWPs shall **ALSO** be subjected to **both the Visual and Mechanical Tests** in Recommendation 3 **on or before 29th February September 2016 and thereafter Daily Before Use.** Record the completion of these tests using the attached **Equipment Test Sheet** which shall then be returned to the relevant Project Leaders and Area Managers - **with a copy held in the Hoist / MEWP.**

In addition, for ESB Networks-owned Hoists / MEWPs, a copy shall be sent to the local Transport Supervisor, Fleet and Equipment.

Action By: **All Hoist / MEWP Operators (both ESB Networks and Contractors) ON OR BEFORE 29TH FEBRUARY 2016**

5. In addition to the **60 second checks**, inspect **ALL Mechanical Equipment Before Use each Day** to ensure that the equipment operates in accordance with the Decals – e.g. **Hoists, MEWPs, Crane Trucks etc.**

Action By: **All Machinery Operators Going Forward.**

6. **Never interfere with ANY safety features on machinery and equipment.**

ALWAYS BE VIGILANT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EQUIPMENT BEING INTERFERED WITH. If machinery and equipment is found to be operating incorrectly, **DO NOT USE IT!** Report all defects **IMMEDIATELY** to the local Fleet & Equipment garage or to the company from whom it is hired.

Action By: **All Machinery Operators Going Forward.**