



Misuse of a Handline Block (LL259)

Incident		Description
Event Date: 02/07/2024	Time: 11:30 a.m.	Location: BPE-HAY-A0225
NP Reference / External Reference: OCC13994 / INV15960: Maximo Incident 174887		

What happened?

During a tower refurbishment job on the Bunnythorpe – Haywards A line, the team realised one of the two available handline blocks required onsite was missing a pin to hold it together. Instead of removing the handline block from service, it was decided to use the block with a ground matt pin to hold the block together to complete the job.



Figure 1 Photo of the Block with Gound Matt Pin



Figure 2 An example of a Block with the correct pin

What could have happened?

Using a handline block without the correct pin could have resulted in objects falling from height due to the improvised pin causing the block to fail under load.

What did we find?

Complacency - The crew failed to address the missing pin for the handline block effectively when selecting the equipment at the yard and again before proceeding with the planned work onsite.

Lack of communication within the crew – Although the missing pin was identified before the job started it was not communicated.



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Failure to reassess the situation – When the missing pin from the handline block was identified on site, the crew failed to stop work, reassess, and escalate to a potential pushback.

Actions:

Reiterate the processes for tagging and testing equipment with a focus on the immediate removal from service. Ensure that the removal from service is also reported to Team Leader/Supervisor immediately. Reiterate to all field staff the critical role these steps play in maintaining safety and operational efficiency.

Supporting References:	SWMS-AC-006 <i>Lifting Loads and Rigging Procedure</i>
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