national highways

INFORMATION

Safety Alert

Faulty Drilling Rig Interlock

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The following pages of this safety alert were created by National Highways' supply chain partner:

National Grid

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Shared Learning Bulletin

Faulty Drilling Rig Interlock

Faulty Interlock

During a site investigation, the cage interlock on the rotary drilling rig was checked during a CDM-A site visit. When checked, it was found that each rig cage door could be opened approximately 10-12 inches before the interlock operated to stop the rotating parts of the rig, leaving an opening of 20-24 inches.

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER)[1] requires the movement of any dangerous machinery to be stopped before any person enters a 'danger zone'.

The failure of the interlock meant there was an increased potential of entanglement with the rotating parts of the drilling rig i.e. the 'danger zone'.

Daily Inspections

The Lead Driller was asked by the CDM-A for the daily PUWER check sheet for the rig, however, it was not available.

HSE guidance[2] highlights that work equipment should be inspected to make sure that it has been correctly installed and is operating safely.

Action Taken

As the interlock was found to be faulty and there was not a valid inspection check sheet, works were stopped onsite. The drilling rig was not used until the faulty interlock had been rectified.

Key Learning

- The Principal Contractor must ensure that daily plant checks have been carried out prior to any plant being used onsite.
- Where any faults are found with plant prior to or during operation, then the equipment must be quarantined until the fault has been rectified.
- The operation of interlocks should be part of the daily checks and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. As this is a key safety function for the drill rig.

1 - https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1998/2306/regulation/11/made

2 - https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l22.pdf

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