CASE STUDY
Joe Roocroft & Sons Ltd | Lifting Equipment – 04.08.2025

Introduction

The Urban Barrier is a unique interlinking temporary barrier system which is easy to install, has no loose parts and has a small working width, making it ideal for pedestrian delineation around building sites, utilities work or site compounds. Operatives within the Company routinely use the equipment which grants them the insight into the workings of the equipment and provides opportunity to suggest improvement.

Overview

The Urban Barrier system offers a higher level of containment and compliance compared to more traditional products and is sturdy enough to withstand strong winds or vandalism, meaning regular checks and reinstatement are not needed.

Installing the Urban Barrier system can mean several operatives are needed to safely install the Urban Barrier especially in windy conditions as guidelines are needed to hold the barriers in place before connecting. Yard Manager, Stewart Kynaston, identified that the lifting equipment provided to handle Urban Barrier allowed for the barriers to continue rotating on the chain after the Hiab crane hook stopped rotating. This could result in personnel being struck by inadvertent movement of the suspended load and cause

Challenges

- The design of the lifting hook allowed for barriers to continue rotating on the chain after the Hiab crane hook stopped rotating.
- Use of a banksman to orientate barrier to enable it to be slotted together whilst in close proximity to a suspended load.
- This could result in personnel being struck by inadvertent movement of the suspended load and cause difficulties for the Hiab operators trying to manoeuvre and slot the barriers together.

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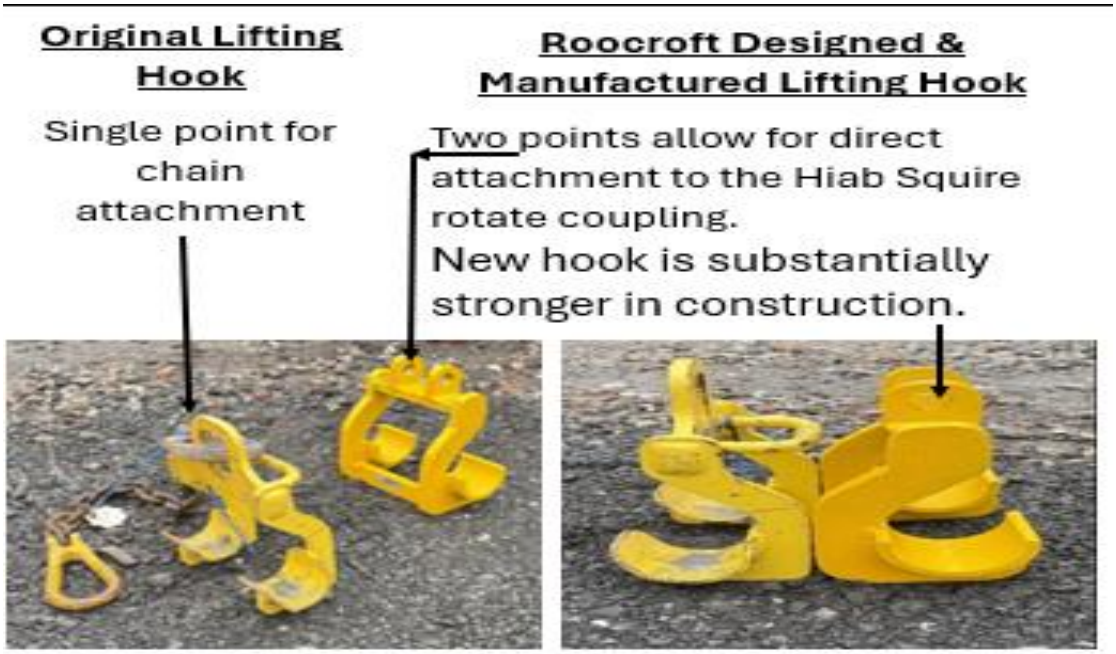
Action Taken

- Working collobroatively with the trained fabricator in the Roocroft Workshop, Stewart Kynaston the Yard Manager, reviewed the design of the lifting mechanisim, identified a suitable modification that mounted the lifting hook through a pin, had a prototype manufactured and trialled and tested the modified lifting hook within the depot.



Contact:Wayne A Walker

Email: *Wayne.walker@ramuddangloballuk.com*

home safe and well

Results

- The trial was successful, it has now been LOLER approved and put into service. which negated the need for a lifting chain and therefore eliminated the ability of the suspended barrier to drift. The new hook was also substantially stronger.
- The new equipment has not only improved the safety of personnel involved, but it has also created additional efficiencies by allowing the assembly of the urban barrier more precisely, giving a reduction in assembly time.
- 1x crane operator can effectively manoeuvre the barrier into place with little or no involvement from a second operator.

HS2

- The safe, accurate, and swift assembly possible due to the Roocroft lifting hook, was a key efficiency in the installation of barrier at HS2, where 7 wagon & drag loads of URBAN Barrier were required to be assembled; over 200 metres in total.
- This modification and improved design was initiated when Stewart put his name forward to become a Health and Safety Champion after attending the Behavioural Safety Course and his passion for improving safety in the workplace for himself and his team.