



FAVCO TOWER CRANES – STD 1000 SERIES SAFETY ALERT

Background

This Safety Alert supplements Interim Safety Alert number 4040 issued February 1997.

The Interim Safety Alert referred to the collapse of a tower crane which killed two workers. The boom lead fell to the ground when the A frame collapsed, (ie. The structure supporting the boom luffing ropes collapsed – see Figure below)

Owners and users of the above type of crane are advised that the A frame on models from the STD 1000 series may be similar to the one that collapsed.

At the time of the accident the crane was operating at near its maximum radius of 62 metres. The safe working load at this radius was 1.5 tonne, which was significantly less than the minimum graduation on the load gauge, of 4 tonne.

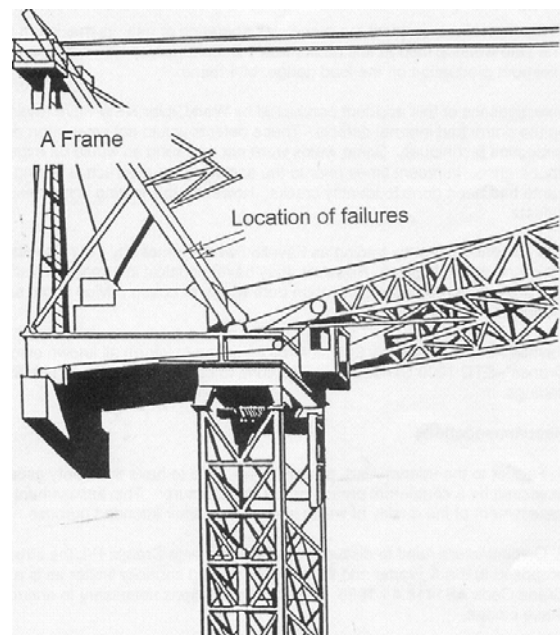
Investigations of this accident conducted by WorkCover NSW have revealed that some welds on the crane had internal defects. These defects would not have been detectable using visual inspection techniques. Some welds were not as strong as would be expected from this appearance. In recent times prior to the accident non-destructive testing of the welds of the A-frame had been done to identify cracks. However, this testing is not designed to reveal internal defects.

The company currently trading as Favelle Favco Cranes Pty Ltd (“Favelle”) did not manufacture the crane that collapsed. However, they have technical information relating to these cranes, and are an appropriate organisation from whom to obtain advice about safety aspects of these cranes.

Favelle Favco Cranes Pty Ltd, have taken action to inform all known owners of Favco Tower Cranes – STD 1000 Series of modifications to the A Frame offered to address to above findings.

Recommendations

1. Further to the Interim Alert, owners-users need to have the safety aspects of their cranes assessed by a competent person or the manufacturers. This assessment needs to include assessment of the quality of welds in relation to their intended purpose.
2. Owners/users need to discuss with Favelle Favco Cranes P/L the structural modifications proposed to the A Frame and the fitting of a rated capacity limiter as is a requirement of the Crane Code AS1418.4 -1988, and any other actions necessary to ensure that safe operation of these cranes.



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