

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0021
Subject:	Overhead crane cable failure
Date:	December 2006

Incident:

A Gantry Crane lifting cable gave way while lifting a 3.5-ton sheet metal coil dropping it from a height of 2 metres. The crane was rated at 6 ton and is a class 3. The crane had been undergoing daily routine inspection by the supervisor and had regular routine service inspections as per the service booklet. Both failed to detect the fraying of the cable in the early stages.

A similar incident occurred at another site within a couple of weeks however the recommendations from the external inspector to replace the cable were not followed up at the time of this incident.



Key Lessons:

- Maintenance and inspection frequencies to be made in accordance with Australian Standard (2550.3 section 7 (*Maintenance Inspection and Repair*)).
- If issues are raised by an inspector, make sure to follow-up on it immediately.

Recommendations:

- Ensure inspections/reports clearly indicate the state and condition of the components.
- Ensure all crane start up checks are completed at the beginning of each shift.
- Make sure that the safe distance of clearance from items being lifted to operators is at least 2m.

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
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