



Notification Description: Tyre Handler Fatality

Details:

A recent tyre fitting incident in the industry (not on an Otraco site) has resulted in a fatality. An investigation is currently underway therefore only limited details have been released. It is however known that there was a failure relating to the tyre handler attachment but the circumstances and cause have not yet been released.

Otraco is taking the following precautions and advises all our clients to do the same:

1. Tyre handler condition

- Inspect the tyre handler attachment for any cracks. Particularly cracks that could compromise the integrity of the tyre handler arms.
- Develop a replacement schedule for bolts used in any “bolt on” sections of the tyre handler arm and consider replacing them immediately if the current bolt condition is uncertain. Figure 1 gives an example of a “bolt on section” showing the bolts in question. Figure 2 shows a solid construction of a tyre arm which does not have the same level of risk.



Figure 1 – Example of a “bolt on” component



Figure 2 – Example of a “solid” construction

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2. Tyre handler maintenance

- Ensure that the tyre handler attachment has a documented Maintenance Plan detailing the actions and intervals required for tasks such as service inspections and component checks and change outs.
- The tyre handler attachment must be subject to its own detailed prestart check. The check list can be separate or combined with the prime mover and should categorise defects that render the machinery unsafe to operate.

3. Tyre fitting practices

- All employees that perform tyre fitting operations must be trained and deemed competent to perform this task. This includes trade fitters who may fit and remove wheels.
- It is not permissible to use the tyre handler for suspending or supporting the tyre to inflate it once the lock ring is seated.
- In the event that the tyre handler is used to assist in the seating of the lock ring by placing pressure on the circumference of the tyre, it is critical that the pressure applied by the Tyre Handler attachment is removed as soon as the seal is affected i.e. before the inflation pressure has reached 10 psi.
- Inflation should be conducted from a remote location using a remote pressure gauge and shut off valve to enable the person to stand away at a safe distance once the lock ring and other rim components have been properly seated.

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