

Hazard Alert



Fishing Vessel Hoist

Hazard Summary

A fisher was fatally injured when the boom of a hoist, used for raising lobster traps out of the water, was inadvertently activated. This caused the boom to descend unexpectedly, striking the fisher on the head and shoulder.

Contributing Factors

Although the hoist was in good operating condition:

- The work practices in place at the time allowed workers to work underneath a boom that was hoisting the suspended load of a lobster trap line.
- The hoist joystick was not protected from unintentional activation and did not have a locking mechanism to keep it in neutral position.
- The hoist was manufactured and installed without the specifications being certified by an engineer.



The crowded work area, combined with the rocking motion of the boat, created a hazardous environment that contributed to the fatality.

Legislated Requirements

The following legislative requirements under PEI's Occupational Health and Safety Act General Regulations relate to this hazard alert:

- Section 34.8(2) – Suspended Loads – No person shall stand or move under any suspended load.
- Section 30.4 (1)(a) – Starting Machinery – The employer shall ensure that operational controls on machinery are located and protected in such a manner as to prevent unintentional activation.
- Section 30.3 (2) – Specifications – The employer shall ensure that the manufacturer's rated capacity or other limitations on the operation of the machinery or any part of it, as set out in the manufacturer's specifications or in any relevant specifications certified by an engineer are not exceeded and are clearly marked on the machinery in a location clearly visible to the operator.
- Section 34.2 (2)(a)(i) – Standards – The employer shall ensure that the hoisting apparatus provided by an employer for the use of a worker is designed, installed, erected, examined, inspected, operated and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the following standards: CSA Standard: B167-16, Overhead Cranes, Gentry Cranes, Monorails, Hoists and Jib Cranes.

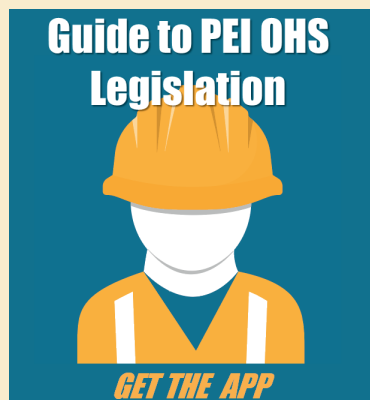
Recommendations

It is recommended that hoists used on fishing vessels:

- Be positioned and designed to minimize overhead hazards for workers.
- Have operational controls, such as a joystick, protected from unintentional activation.
- Have controls with an automatic locking system, like a joystick with a neutral lock and spring return.
- Have their specifications certified by an engineer to meet the requirements of the applicable CSA Standards.

Example

When using this style of joystick, lifting the collar under the base of the handle unlocks the shaft. The safety lock mechanically holds the shaft of the joystick in its safe central position or at either end of the range of travel. This locking feature prevents the hoist from being unintentionally activated.



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