

SAFETY ALERT

SPT HAMMER LIFTING EYE FAILURE

What happened?

The lifting eye of an automatic trip hammer failed whilst a Standard Penetration Test was being carried out. The hammer was in date and had a current lifting certificate in line with LOLER 98.

The trip hammer had been winched up the drill mast of a multi-purpose rig, connected to the top of the drill string and a penetration test carried out. As the test was near completion the trip hammers lifting eye failed causing the hook of the winch cable to come free of the hammer. This caused the weight of the hammer to fall back down the shaft back onto the anvil.



What could have happened?

This could have caused a very serious injury to the driller if it had failed whilst being lifted onto/removed from the drill string.

Immediate action

The hammer was immediately taken out of operation. All other hammers purchased from this manufacturer have also been taken out of operation.

Lessons Learned

- Management to ensure all new equipment is suitable for the purpose for which it is intended, especially when there is a change in supplier or manufacturer.
- Lead Drillers to inspect the hammer before use. Look for excessive wear, deformations or cracks and check the condition of bolt, pins and latches.
- The hammer should only be used for the purpose it is intended. DO NOT use the hammer to pull the drill string from the bottom of the borehole on completion of a test.

SERIOUS NEGLECT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES CAN AMOUNT TO GROSS MISCONDUCT AND LEAD TO INSTANT DISMISSAL