



## Faulty Drilling Rig Interlock

### Faulty Interlock

During a site investigation, the cage interlock on the rotary drilling rig was checked during a CDM-A site visit. When checked, it was found that each rig cage door could be opened approximately 10-12 inches before the interlock operated to stop the rotating parts of the rig, leaving an opening of 20-24 inches.

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER)<sup>1</sup> requires the movement of any dangerous machinery to be stopped before any person enters a 'danger zone'.

The failure of the interlock meant there was an increased potential of entanglement with the rotating parts of the drilling rig i.e. the 'danger zone'.



### Daily Inspections

The Lead Driller was asked by the CDM-A for the daily PUWER check sheet for the rig, however, it was not available.

HSE guidance<sup>2</sup> highlights that work equipment should be inspected to make sure that it has been correctly installed and is operating safely.

### Action Taken

As the interlock was found to be faulty and there was not a valid inspection check sheet, works were stopped onsite. The drilling rig was not used until the faulty interlock had been rectified.

### Key Learning

- The Principal Contractor must ensure that daily plant checks have been carried out prior to any plant being used onsite.
- Where any faults are found with plant prior to or during operation, then the equipment must be quarantined until the fault has been rectified.
- The operation of interlocks should be part of the daily checks and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. As this is a key safety function for the drill rig.

1 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1998/2306/regulation/11/made>

2 - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l22.pdf>