

BDA Audit - New Requirement for Wire Rope Inspection Training

Inspection of wire ropes has always been part of the Driller's daily routine. This is especially important in Cable Percussion drilling where the rope is subjected to continuous shocks and is always at risk of pinches, crushes and kinking. In rotary drilling applications the winch can be subjected to prolonged immersion in water and exposed to dirty and potentially corrosive contaminants expelled during the drilling process.

Since July 2021 the audit has included a 'for information' question asking whether the Driller has received training in the inspection of wire ropes, and we have found that less than 25% of Auditees have undertaken a suitable course that outlines how to adequately inspect wire ropes in a geotechnical context.

The importance of wire rope inspection was highlighted recently when a Lead Driller was struck on the head by a counter weight which was ejected after the winch rope failed due to corrosion.

The BDA believes that all people who work with ropes on a daily basis should receive training in how to inspect them and this should reduce the risk of accidents and incidents. From September 2022 evidence of training will be required to be submitted as part of the pre-qualification for Audit, this can be done in-house by a competent person, or an external provider.

Examples of acceptable courses are:

Wire Rope Inspection (LEEA Accredited WR02)

- 2.5 day course
<https://www.carlstahlevita.co.uk/wire-rope-inspection-leea-accredited-wr02-2/>

Crane Steel Wire Rope Inspection : TR 52

- 1 day course
- <https://www.certex.co.uk/training/lifting-inspection-courses/crane-steel-wire-rope-inspection-tr-52>

Wire Rope Inspections

- Online, on-demand course
- <https://www.geoacademy.co.uk/course?courseid=loler-wire-rope-inspections>

The LEAA courses are very detailed and contain content which is not appropriate or relevant to a Driller. We recommend a short course aimed specifically at geotechnical drilling.