

ALERT 14 – 08

MAINTENANCE ON ACCOMMODATION'S ELEVATOR RESULTS IN A FATALITY

WHAT HAPPENED:

During the maintenance of the activation system of the load lift door, a team comprising of an electrician (injured person) and an electronic technician decided to visually check the accommodation's elevator, in order to compare both mechanisms to facilitate the repair of the load lift. When checking the accommodations elevator, the electrician entered the elevator, climbed on the top of the cabin, changed the operation mode from "Auto" to "Inspection" (maintenance mode), and performed the required inspections. The electrician was unable to determine what was affecting the activation mechanism of the load lift. Concluding the inspection, he took the lift down to just above the lower floor. He then changed the operation mode to "Auto" and leaned over the structure of the door activation mechanism, which placed his head between the lift structure and the door sill of the higher level. Since the lift was positioned above the so called "door zone," it started its lifting process to level the elevator, which compressed the electrician's head resulting in the fatality.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Activity performed without a Permit to Work, including proper energy isolation. Thus the risks were not assessed.
- Lack of procedure for elevator maintenance.
- Lack of training for the elevator maintenance team.
- Activity performed without supervision.
- Poor safety culture.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- The company reminded all installation personnel to include the supervision or immediate leadership in maintenance activity planning;
- Rig Managers were instructed to keep strict control of the correct utilization of Risk Analysis and the Permit to Work system;
- All Rig Managers and maintenance employees were reminded that, during services planning and PTW issuance, they are required to know the equipment that they will be using in order to identify the appropriate training to perform the task;
- All employees were reminded to apply and follow all company operating policies/procedures and to enforce the concept of "If in doubt, Stop!"
- The company reinforced the leadership role of all Rig Managers and focus on safety;
- The company set out to clearly define the maintenance activities to be carried out by the onboard crew and the ones to be performed by specialized companies/manufacturers, based on manufacturers manuals and instructions;
- The company established training requirements (operation, rescue, maintenance) which were provided to elevator manufacturers upon delivery of equipment to offshore units.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.