

SAFETY ALERT - FAILURE OF MASTERLINK ON FOUR-LEG SLING SET

Incident Date: 7/02/2011

Summary:

Catastrophic failure of a 275mm x 150mm x 38mm dia 27.7t master-link supplied as a component of a 4-leg wire rope sling-set for a 35t load. This link was one of two sub-master links in the assembly (i.e. It had two wire sling thimbles through it) When the link failed, it was lifting a 5t support frame.

Although the actual failure has not resulted in any injuries or damage, under prior circumstances it could easily have had much more serious consequences.

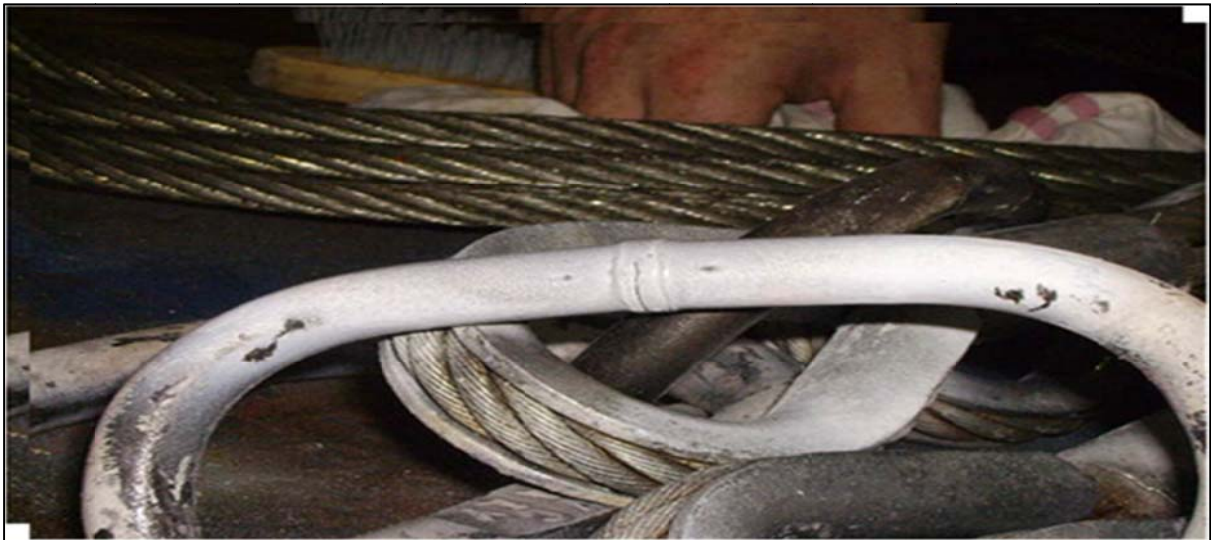
It has been even more concerning that follow-up action has so far identified three other master links in service from the same supplier which have similar cracking such that their failure would have been imminent. The failed link was purchased in December 2010 and was proof-tested as an assembly prior to being placed in service as part of an approved offshore construction lifting plan.

Incident Consequences: High-Potential

Cause of accident or incident: Collapse, overturn or failure of lifting equipment

Activity Location: Any Location Type

Activity Type: Lifting, crane, rigging, deck operations



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Specific Equipment: Master Link - 275mm x 150mm x 38mm dia 27.7t (Master link supplied as a component of a four leg wire rope sling-set for a 35t load. This link was one of two sub-master links in the assembly (i.e. It had two wire sling thimbles through it).

Markings are: D38 (38mm dia) Grade 100,

Manufacturer's marking: Weissenfels. Italy & WA marked on Link.

Lessons Learned: The importance of carrying out visual inspections on lifting and hoisting equipment.

Task Description: Lifting and Hoisting operations – pre-use checks

Recommendations:

1. Immediate response has been to ban lifting with all master links until the failure cause has been determined and appropriate remedial action taken
2. It is recommended that all users of similar chain and sling sets using this type of master link should immediately check their inventory for any similar potential failures, particularly links from this manufacturer & model type markings.

For further information contact - sglatley@zadco.ae