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Hook Block kit cuts downtime

One cause of expensive 'downtime' on overhead cranes could be a thing of the past, if a new replacement hook block system from Crosby is half as good as UK distributor Certex UK claims.

The McKissick Quic-Kit is a compact, kit designed to provide a customised replacement block within minutes of a failure, saving hours, even weeks of valuable production time. The system can easily be configured to replace over 80 percent of overhead crane block applications, and is ready for use in less than five minutes. It covers wire rope diameters from 6.5mm to 26mm and also has adjustable sheave spacing allowing a user to match their exact requirements.

Nigel Edwards of Certex UK, explains, "Most overhead cranes operate without block spares, and if the block fails, the crane is out of action. Specific replacement blocks can take up to six weeks to arrive causing severe disruption. "The McKissick Quic-Kit fits the majority of overhead cranes, and is available off the shelf with next day delivery and a full fitting service,"

Supplied in a portable case, complete with easy-to-follow assembly instructions and tools, the kit also includes a software package that creates a printable dimensional

An assembled McKissick Quic-block.



drawing of the exact crane block required, together with specific assembly instructions, a list of replacement parts and inspection information.

Kits come in 10 sizes allowing users to produce hundreds of different single or double sheave blocks. The 751 (single sheave) series has four sizes with working load limits of 2, 3, 5, 7.5 and 10 tonnes; while the 752 (double sheave) series provides working load limits of 3, 5, 7.5, 10 and 15 tonnes. Sheave bearings are maintenance free and sealed for life (10,000 hours), the removable housing allows the block to be easily reeved without complete disassembly, and there is an option to attach an 'anti two-block' device.

The McKissick kit comes complete in a special case



Explosion proof booms

SkyHigh, the Belgian based producer of specialist boom, trailer and vehicle mounted lifts, has launched a range of ATEX95 certified boom lifts. With a choice of 10, 12 or 13 metres working heights, all of which are self propelled and offer up to six metres of outreach. The lifts are certified for work in Zone One Gas explosion risks and Zone 22 fine dust explosion risk, categories 2G and 3D.

SkyHigh has worked with Explosion proofing experts Pyroban, but unusually it has retained full control of the engineering and also the product



All areas that present any risk of causing a spark are contained in special Pyroban enclosures.

support. Typically manufacturers send their standard machines to Pyroban in the UK, for conversion to an explosion proof version. Skyhigh however has designed its booms with Pyroban and purchases the specialised componentry from it, installing, testing and certifying the end product in its own plant near Antwerp.

The units are aimed at the Petrochemical, industrial spraying and milling industries. The first units were delivered to RJ Reynolds for work in a Zone 22 application, where highly inflammable tobacco dust is present.

The 12 metre explosion proofed boom



AFI teamed up with MobileSOS to provide a custom emergency alert for employees.



Protection for Employees Working Alone

AFI Aerial Platforms has adopted a new emergency SOS service for employees working alone. Over 100 of the company's engineers, drivers and hire desk controllers working on their own will be registered with a new personal security service that works on any mobile phone, provided by MobileSOS Ltd.

Employees can press a panic button on their mobile phone to summon help from colleagues. The call goes through to the MobileSOS offices; their location determined and then, along with a pre-recorded message, sent out to a given list of contacts via voice, text and email, raising the alarm. In the event of the "emergency passing" there is a preset "I am OK" button confirming that they are safe. Employees can also activate a timer that will trigger an emergency alert if it is not cancelled before the timer runs out.

Gilliaume Oosthuizen, chief technical officer at MobileSOS said: "AFI came to us with a particular set of needs and is working with us to extend our normal services with added features relevant to its business. Of course, we hope that the emergency response service will never have to be used, but by having it in place, AFI is giving employees the reassurance of knowing that they can quickly summon help in the event of an incident, accident or medical condition."

Austin Baker of AFI said: "AFI wanted to provide added security and reassurance to members of our team who have to work alone, whether it's a hire desk controller alone in an office or a service engineer working late at night on a construction site."

"This initiative is also very much in line with Health and Safety at Work legislation requiring employers to identify work hazards, assess the risks involved and put measures in place to avoid or control them," he added.

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