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Talk No: 14 Title: USE OF HOISTS

Introduction: Hoists are an excellent accessory when used properly. If misused, they can be extremely dangerous.

Main points:

- The erection, alteration and dismantling of hoists should be carried out only by suitably trained and qualified personnel.
- Hoists must be clearly marked denoting whether they are for personnel or materials use, or for both, and with the Safe Working Load (SWL).
- Hoists should be operated only by suitably trained and competent personnel.

Discussion points:

- Hoist towers must be suitably tied to the hoist structure.
- Passenger hoists must be fitted with interlocking gates at each landing space, and all gates must be kept closed when the hoist is in operation.
- Hoist design and construction should prevent the fall of any materials from any platform or cage.
- Hoists must be fitted with a braking device that operates in the event of a lifting gear failure.
- Such braking devices must be re-tested following any significant adjustment or alteration to the hoist.
- Personnel must never travel in hoists designed for material loads, and material loads must never exceed SWL's.
- Hoists must be subject to periodic thorough examinations by competent persons (in the case of personnel hoists this is at least every 6 months).
- A system of local interim inspections should also carried out on a regular basis (weekly?) and the results recorded.
- Hoists must be suitably secured when not in use to prevent unauthorized use.

IF YOU THINK SAFETY RULES ARE A PAIN – CONSIDER THE PAIN OF AN ACCIDENT! Notes: