



KEYHOLE ATTACHMENTS

ON SLING HOISTS FOR STUDENT HANDLING

Pelican Manufacturing Ltd has advised their customers that keyhole plates on Tilt (Pivot) Frame Hoists can break. The keyhole design is used by a number of manufacturers as the attachment point for client slings.

A number of incidents involving the keyhole design are documented including keyhole plates accidentally coming off or even breaking. A recent occurrence in Queensland this year involved the plates breaking on a sling that was approximately 10 years old. This resulted in a client fall and injury. Pelican Manufacturing has offered their customers 'Safety Straps' that can be fitted to slings to improve the security of the attachment of sling to hoist.

What should schools do?

Whilst there are no recorded incidents of sling attachments failing in the school environment, schools are advised to immediately:

1. Check the design of the sling attachment on all hoists
2. If there are keyhole designs, verify the manufacturer of the hoist
3. Contact the manufacturer of the hoist to determine;
 - a) if there is a need to add safety straps or modifications to make the attachment more secure
 - b) if the company has a product suitable to use with their hoist/sling

Schools should also implement systems to ensure appropriate use and monitoring of people lifting equipment, including:

1. Daily pre-use inspections of hoist slings and clips for signs of deterioration
2. Confirmation that weight limits of sling and hoist are appropriate for the student
3. Ensure keyhole attachments are properly engaged
4. Establish appropriate washing procedures for slings; according to manufacturer's instructions
5. Perform other routine inspections as per manufacturer's recommendations
6. Repair or replace worn components/slides in accordance with manufacturer's specifications

More Information

For more information please contact the supplier or manufacturer of your hoist and slings.

Contact details for some companies are available on the Equipment Options and Suppliers Factsheet: <http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/mh-equip-factsheet.pdf>