

MAINTENANCE ALERT

Please be aware of damage caused as a result of the now redundant, practice of erecting a cable percussion drilling rig using the winch cable.

Prior to the introduction of the secondary electric winch, when erecting a cable percussion rig, the winch cable was run over the crown and back through the "A" frame above the first cross member, the cable was then attached to the Samson Post by means of a shackle. It has been noted that significant damage may have been caused to the triangular strengthening plate welded below the apex of the A frame, just below the secondary crown wheel. This plate has an eye hole which is often used to attach the main winch cable when introducing a snatch block to the mechanism when further load is required to be generated.

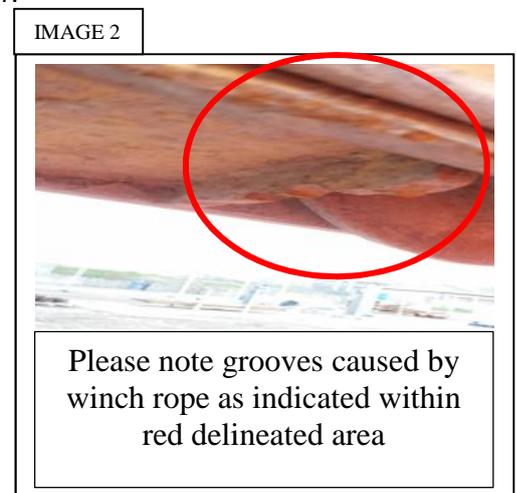
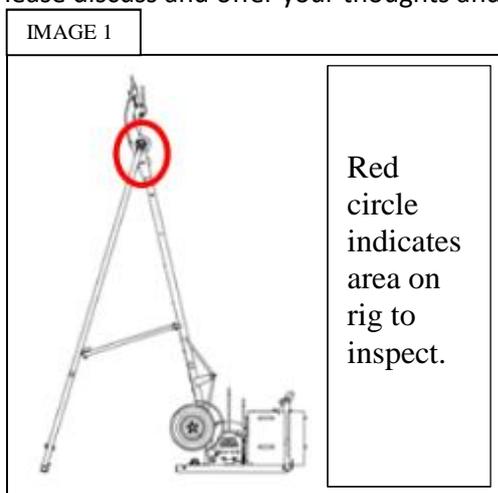
The eye plate when viewed from above conceals the section of the derrick that may have been worn or damaged. The only method to note any damage or wear is to get beneath the rig prior to erection. It should be noted that when the rig is erect, the distance from ground level to the eye plate does not permit damage to be readily observed. **It is imperative that this inspection is carried out prior to erection of the rig.**

It is strongly recommended by the BDA that all rig operators must ensure particular attention is paid to the inspection of the underneath of this eye plate during routine and annual inspections and in any event, post this alert. Rig operators should also inform any third party inspectors contracted to carry out the annual thorough examination of this issue to ensure full inspection is carried out.

Please be aware, it is the BDA's position that the use of a secondary electric winch is the only recognised method used to lift and lower the rig. The BDA audit no longer recognises any alternative methods of erecting or lowering the cable percussion rig.

The BDA's Guidance for the safe operation of cable percussion rig and equipment, August 2016, Appendix E, Example Daily Inspection Sheet, will assist. The method of introducing a snatch block is given within Section 5.2 and 6.4 respectively.

Please discuss and offer your thoughts and concerns on this matter.



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