



Winch Replacement and Certification Compliance



What happened?

During a recent audit, it was identified that the main service winch on a rotary machine had not been properly examined. The machine's certification for R68 indicated that winch ID R69 W02 was installed. However, upon inspection, the auditor discovered that a completely different winch, ID R71W01, was fitted. Further investigation revealed that the winch had been replaced during routine maintenance, and while the replacement was recorded, the winch used in the replacement had not been examined within the previous 12-month period.



R68	Drilling Rig, Medium Duty	Mast: 6500 kg	A
10-May-2023	2768	Winch: 2000	None
08-May-2024	Comacchio / Geo 405 HT	kg FoS 5:1	B
08-May-2025	2017	Wireline: 600	None
	Yard	kg	C
			Main Winch No: R68- W02
			Rope: S015033-2 Report No: 1011490
			Witness of load test: 1000 kg



What went wrong?

Mechanical Causes

- The original winch fitted to the machine during its annual Thorough Examination was removed during a maintenance check and replaced with a winch that was not certified.

Procedure Causes

- The plant team and drilling operatives had failed to notice that the winch in use on the machine at the time of audit had not been Thoroughly Examined within the last 12 months.

Action Taken

- Upon identification of the issue, the winch rope was immediately removed from the winch to prevent its use until a thorough examination could be conducted.



Outcome and Lessons Learnt

It is crucial for companies and drillers to ensure that when machines are put into service or when taking over the operation of a machine, the certification aligns with the actual machine and its components. Do not assume that someone else will handle these details. Both operators and employers are responsible for ensuring that machinery and equipment are safe to use at all times.

Reminder

- Always verify that the winch and its components/accessories match the certification.
- Ensure that any replacements are properly examined and documented.
- It is essential to take ownership of safety and equipment checks to maintain compliance and avoid operational risks.