

Fork fractured whilst forklift in operation

SAFETY ALERT

Description of incident:

- A forklift operator was rotating a fully loaded skip when the right-hand fork fractured just below the lower fork mounting Boss.
- The load was set down on the ground with no further incident

Findings:

- LOLER inspection was in date and daily check completed prior to incident
- The right-hand fork fractured immediately below the lower mounting boss support (image 1)
- The left-hand fork was removed, cleaned and inspected – the lower mounting boss was found to be cracked (images 2 & 3) in a similar area to the right-hand fork
- Both forks appear to have suffered from fatigue fractures across the lower mounting boss causing the complete fracture of the right-hand fork
- Overloading is not considered a contributing factor in this incident



Truck details:



- Mitsubishi FD160N
- Truck fitted with SMC Euroclamp U180RLE Rotator

Recommendations from forklift provider:

- A schedule of MPI crack testing to be adopted, - carried out every 6 months alongside the LOLER checks already being undertaken.