

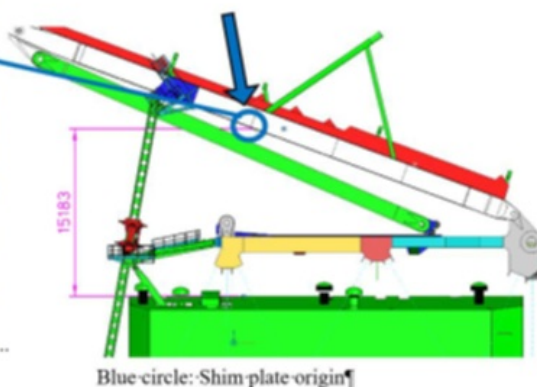
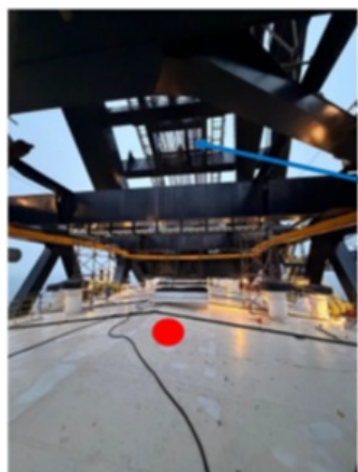
Dropped object: falling shim plate while lowering A-frame

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During the lowering of the A-frame of the crane on a large crane vessel, a plate with a weight of 15kg, rolled out from the auxiliary inboard fleeting sheaves.

What happened?

The shim plate fell 15m onto the roof of the crane cabin. On hearing the noise, work was stopped. The drop zone and surrounding areas were secured to ensure safe conditions. Had the plate hit anyone, there would have been a fatality.



IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Line of fire



Safe mechanical lifting

What went wrong?

Investigation showed that these plates were not secured at all, and that only by luck, had they not fallen off during previous operations.

- The shim plate had been installed in 2014, when the A-frame did not have the ability to be lowered.
- In 2021 the A-frame had been modified, to have the ability to be lowered.
- During routine maintenance of the fleeting sheaves in 2025, the shim plates were removed and cleaned.
- After the re-installation the shim plates were not secured, as this had never been the case before.
- During previous operations shim plates remained in place by luck.

Further investigation revealed that there was no Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA), Failure Mode Effect and Criticality Analysis (FMECA) or dropped object study/analyses conducted prior to the lowering of the A-frame.

The investigation concluded that the shim plates did not become dropped objects earlier only because of the accumulation of dirt and corrosion holding them in

place.

There was a thorough inspection of subsequent securing of all shim plates on both crane A-frames.

What to do now?

- Check carefully - could there be other similar components at risk of becoming a dropped object?
- Design review: are there other similar components which might be affected by the increase or decrease of crane inclination angles?
- Consider: the absence of incidents does not necessarily imply a safe work environment.

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