

## Safety Alert

Subject	Concerns over critical maintenance for crane transfer devices
Issue Date	15th August 2012
Relevance	Relevant to all personnel transfer devices
Number	SA 01/12

It recently came to our attention that the condition of a number of crane transfer devices in service in the North Sea had deteriorated to the extent that they presented a significant hazard to passengers. These situations have arisen due to failures to inspect and maintain critical components in accordance with OEM recommendations. Considering the **serious duty** of personnel transfer equipment, it is paramount that this equipment is given appropriate priority in inspection and maintenance programmes, which should at least be on a par with normal rigging loft.

Perhaps because many units in the North Sea are utilised primarily for contingency purposes, on occasions they appear to have been omitted from planned maintenance programmes. This is cause for concern, as events in recent years have highlighted that **there are many occasions when transfer equipment is pressed urgently into service**. The reasons are varied, and have included facilitation of emergency operations, conduct of MedEvacs and responses to disrupted aviation services e.g. following extended periods of fog, volcanic eruptions, helicopter incidents etc.

This note is intended as a reminder to the industry that transfer equipment should be included in the installation's planned maintenance programmes and regularly inspected and maintained in accordance with OEM recommendations. **Slings in particular require careful scrutiny** as they are prone to damage and deterioration.

Reflex Marine will continue to support its clients' efforts to maintain safe marine transfer capabilities. Recent initiatives have included improvements to User Manuals, the development of new Inspection & Maintenance training modules (now run in most major operating regions) and we are currently restructuring our leasing arrangements to allow operators continual access to the best maintained and specified equipment. We will communicate more information on this area in the coming months.

**In the meantime, we recommend that all operators check the status of their transfer equipment and confirm that appropriate inspection and maintenance plans are in place and are being implemented.**

Yours sincerely,

Philip Strong, CEO  
Reflex Marine Ltd.