

C J T Services Ltd

Health and Safety Management

Safety Bulletin 86

Scissor Lift Failure

This bulletin serves to communicate the details of a Scissor Lift Failure which occurred recently.

An incident recently occurred involving a **1999 model SKYJACK TYPE 8841 SCISSOR LIFT Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP)**. The MEWP was being raised from its base position with two men on board when a noise was heard and the machine was stopped. Those on board and a third workmate observing at ground level looked for any obstruction etc. Having found nothing they attempted to continue to raise the platform when a loud bang was heard, at the same time the front end collapsed into the position shown below.

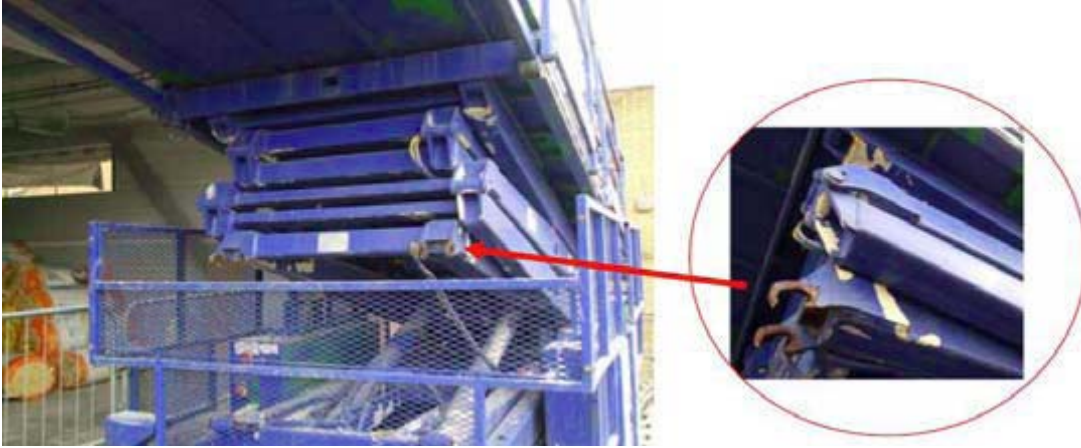
Fortunately the working platform had been raised less than 2 meters at the time and although the operatives were pitched forward, they were not seriously hurt and were able to climb down to ground level.



The rear end of the scissor packs' scissor arms had sheared from their base pivot-pin connectors as shown below, the close up shows one of these two failures.

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Initial examination identified oxidization, a suggestion of developing fatigue and final stress fractures as shown below.



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This equipment was recovered for detailed examination by Skyjack Technical Service and the HSE. The MEWP provider advised that their engineers have since inspected all other examples of this make / model of scissor lift on their fleet, and report that no visual signs of any inherent fault were found.

Suggested action

1. All examples of the SKYJACK 8841 model of MEWP should be identified and taken out of service immediately, pending inspection by an authorised engineer and written confirmation from the owner or supplier of being fit for use.
2. All other scissor lifts used should be subject to an inspection, paying particular attention to scissor arm base connections prior to further use. Inspection being undertaken by a competent operator and findings recorded. Should there be any cause for concern identified; the MEWP is to be taken out of service, pending a thorough examination to be arranged by the owner or supplier of the equipment.
3. Operators and users of scissor MEWPS are to be given a toolbox talk based on this bulletin, emphasising the importance of diligently undertaking their daily checks and weekly inspections in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, together with remaining alert to any developing fault or deterioration. **If in any doubt, take the machine out of service and report this to site management.**

If you require any further information, clarification or assistance with the above, then please do not hesitate to contact us;

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