

Insulatus



INSULATING LINKS

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INSULATING LINKS AND THEIR USE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The introduction of Insulated Links marks the most significant change in crane attachments for several decades because it represents a change in the 'state of the art'. The opportunity now exists to address the main cause of injury and deaths from crane accidents in the USA. The question now is in what circumstances should Insulating Links be used. Insulating links are set to make the biggest change to end-of-the-hook devices since hook swivels were marketed.

OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Association) statistics show the Construction industry suffers more fatalities than any other industry. Within Construction, crane deaths are the most significant, accounting for 20% of all fatalities. Within crane-related deaths, death by electrocution again is the number one killer, accounting for almost 40% of the 500+ crane-related deaths in the ten years to 1994, three times more than any other cause.

ASME (Associated Society of Mechanical Engineers) mandates safety standard B30.5 which focuses on maintaining clear safety margins when operating in the environment of overhead power lines. OSHA offers the same advice. However, the deaths continue and further precautions are necessary to reduce their incidence.

Until recently there has been no reliable protection against electrocution by power line contact. Insulating Links suffered from three shortcomings:

- * They could not withstand power line voltages when exposed to rain or dirt.
- * Their electrical protection deteriorated over time.
- * They were unable to endure lifting loads common in the industry.

Tests have always demonstrated that the products previously available failed on all these three counts. Other methods such as proximity indicators or boom tip cages do not offer adequate safety in their own right and should be used in conjunction with an Insulating Link.

Recent advances in insulating techniques and the use of microprocessors to monitor their effectiveness have created a breakthrough in the functionality of Insulating Links. Insulating Links are now available that will withstand power line voltages in dirt and rain, monitor any deterioration in their own protection and retain their insulation under load.

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In this context, it is now appropriate to mandate the use of Insulating Links in the construction industry in any circumstance in which a crane may be in the proximity of overhead power lines. To this end it is proposed:

In a job site which includes a Danger Zone, as defined in section 5-3.4.5 of the 1994 ASME B30.5 standard, all cranes, or any part thereof, operating within the 'Danger Zone' or which the site manager determines have the capacity to move into that 'Danger Zone' shall be fitted with Insulating Links.

The Insulating Link must have the capacity to self-check and warn of its dielectric properties prior to and at any time during the lift. It shall meet the structural requirements of ASME B30.9. Furthermore it must have been tested under conditions which simulate the expected lift environment including appropriate current, voltages and contamination. Any current leakage during such tests should not exceed one milli-amp, (1 mA).

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Proposed Member : HUGH PRATT MSc.BSc. Dip Ocean

Interests: Proven safety technology for operations near powerlines

Authorisation to represent Interests: There is only one product of proven safety technology supplied by Insulatus Inc. Insulatus Inc hereby nominate Hugh Pratt.

Good Faith: I Hugh Michael Oppen Pratt do solemnly swear that I will act in good faith as set out in Vol 67 , # 136 , July 16 2002 of the Federal Register.


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H.M.O.Pratt

Achievements.

18 International Patents, 7 patents on Insulating link
5 National Awards
Presentations to B30, NSC, CCA, SC&RA committees etc.

Work History

University Apprentice - Rolls Royce	1969
Hons.Degree Mech,Eng. University Colledge London	1973
MSC. Degree Ocean Eng U.C.L	1974
Educational Measurements Ltd. - set up tensile tester production	1975
Ocean Industries Ltd. President & Technical Director	
crane scale & loadcell business	1975
'Patented Load Insulator'	1994
Phd High Voltage Engineering of Insulating links. U.C.L	2002-2004

Other Skills

French
Engineering tools and manufacture
Pilot's License
Naval Diving Certificate

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