



Monday, October 05, 2015

**RE: Power Climber Wind Service Lift Safety**

Power Climber Wind (PCW) has no direct information related to the fatal incident reportedly involving a service lift in Storkow, Germany on September 28, 2015. However, we can confirm that no PCW equipment was involved in this incident. Some reports have indicated that the service lift involved included a Tractel Tirak traction hoist and Tractel BlocStop overspeed safety device.

**No PCW service lift supplied to any wind customer uses the Tractel Tirak, BlocStop or any other Tractel component.**

PCW, a division of SafeWorks, LLC, designs and manufactures not only the service lift cabin and controls, but the traction hoist that provides the lifting power. The traction hoist that powers all PCW service lifts – labeled as the **PC3** in North America and **Titan** in Europe and elsewhere – is designed and manufactured by SafeWorks, LLC in our ISO9001:2008-certified facilities in Seattle, WA, and Kontich, Belgium.

The Titan/PC3 hoist includes three integrated safety devices:

1. The **Overload Detection** device stops lift movement in either up or down direction if the rated load of 240kg is exceeded by 25% (still well within allowable safety factors for suspension beam and steel wire ropes);
2. The **Overspeed Safety** device will lock onto the primary suspension cable and immediately stop movement of the service lift should the service lift's descent exceed its designed speed for any reason;
3. In the event that the primary suspension cable should fail/be cut/become slack for any reason, the **Slack Rope Safety** device will automatically and immediately lock onto the secondary rope and immediately stop movement of the service lift.

With these safeties in place, no single point of failure can lead to an unsafe condition, much less a catastrophic failure such as that reported in Storkow. These safeties are integrated in the PC3/Titan hoist, unlike the BlocStop safety, which is installed separately from the Tirak traction hoist. As such, the PC3 safeties are non-removeable and easy to inspect and test prior to operation.

Prior to each daily use, PCW requires that each turbine service lift receives an inspection as called out in our operational manual under "daily checklist". This inspection is a detailed process for visually inspecting all major components of the lift as well as testing the Overspeed Device. PCW service lift training curriculum covers the daily checklist and other thorough inspections of the lift in all Operation, Maintenance and Installation Training courses. Alternatively, our Sherpa Turbine Service Lift DVD series offers the same information.



The PC3/Titan traction hoist was introduced over 10 years ago. Over 40,000 are in operation globally today, including many in harsh outdoor environments. No Overspeed Device failure leading to an unsafe condition has been reported in the millions of hours of operation of this fleet.

Although root cause of the Storkow incident is not yet known, **no PCW service lift contains the Tractel Tirak traction hoist, BlocStop or any other Tractel component.** You and your customers can continue to operate with confidence their installed fleet of service lifts provided by PCW.

For further support regarding our turbine service lifts or for additional questions, please contact us directly.

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