

January 22, 2009

"The Employer"

The Chief Compliance Officer is writing to acknowledge receipt of the employer's letter dated January 9, 2009 requesting a deviation from CSA Standard Z150-98 Safety Code on Mobile Cranes, Section 3.7.6.3 that states:

Load hooks shall be equipped with a swivel and a safety latch(es). The latch shall bridge the throat opening of the hook for the purpose of retaining slings or other devices under slack conditions (see ANSI/ASME Standard B30.10)*

The employer indicates in the employer's request the following:

The materials handling and bulk handling departments presently operate 6 front-end loaders fitted with quick-attach couplings. These couplings will fit various attachments, including an "in-house fabricated" hook lifting device which is presently being reviewed by a Structural Engineer and will be inspected and certified. A copy of the Certification and Inspection report will follow.

The following list is but a few of the tasks requiring the hook-lifting device:

- Lead block movements;
- Furnace forehearth delivery;
- Refinery kettle delivery;
- Refinery vacuum de-zinc bell delivery;
- Various pieces of "on-sight" machinery is also rigged & carried;
- Furnace west end water jacket.

Due to the nature of movements required with the front end loader using the hook lifting device, the employer feels the safety risk to be greater having a safety latch installed on the hook, rather than without. This is due to the fact that an employee would be required to place himself/herself between the loader & the load to operate the safety latch. With the safety latch not be installed, this gives the Loader Operator the ability to connect and disconnect from his load safety. The employer provided photos of the safety hook with the employer's request.

The employer notes in the employer's request that the *Occupational Health & Safety Act* does not have anything in writing stating regulations with regard to safety latches but is covered under CSA Standard Z150-98 Safety Code on Mobile Cranes, Section 2.7.6.3

The employer's request is for a deviation from the existing CSA standard pertaining to the use of safety latches on load hooks.

Based on the information the employer has provided, a deviation is not required as this piece of equipment is considered to be power mobile equipment and not a mobile crane.

By copy of this letter, the Chief Compliance Officer has advised WorkSafeNB staff and the JHSC Co-chairs of the decision.

Yours truly,

Chief Compliance Officer