

PLANT – Designated plant

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Vehicle hoists >

This information bulletin has been produced to outline the owners' responsibilities with regards the registration, record keeping, repairs and maintenance requirements pertaining to vehicle hoists.

Responsibilities of owners

The [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) place an obligation on owners to ensure that vehicle hoists are installed, maintained and repaired so as to minimise the risk to health and safety of people using them. It has been brought to the notice of NT WorkSafe that many hoists are not being maintained and serviced correctly and that hoists have not been registered NT WorkSafe.

Registration

Vehicle hoists are designated plant, and in accordance with Regulations 93 to 97, the owner must register the hoist with NT WorkSafe. Designated plant are those types of plant which are considered to be a high risk to workers if they are not maintained and operated correctly. On registering the hoist, the owner will receive a Certificate of Registration and a Record of Plant Inspection. All hoists receive a plant item number for identification.

Plant record

Regulation 105 requires the owner of a vehicle hoist to keep a record for the hoist, containing:

- the data and operating instructions provided by the manufacturer;
- the Certificate of Registration of the plant and the Record of Plant Inspection;
- copies of the Inspection Reports; and
- details of all repairs and maintenance carried out on the hoist, including the date and details of the person who carried out the repairs or maintenance.

Maintenance and servicing

Vehicle hoists are the only industrial lifting equipment specifically designed for people to work underneath an elevated load. Failure of a vehicle hoist could result in serious injury or death.

It is therefore extremely important that all parts are correctly serviced and maintained to minimise the risk of failure.

The owner must ensure that servicing and maintenance is carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and at least at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer. Vehicle hoists located in harsh working environment, eg. degreasing areas, outdoor, etc, may need

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servicing more frequently. Particular attention must be paid to lift nuts (drive and safety), ropes, sheaves and safety devices. Stripping the unit down for inspection of these items may be necessary. Where parts are worn beyond the level of wear specified by the manufacturer, those parts must be replaced.

Servicing and maintenance must be carried out by a competent person.

To ensure the servicing and maintenance is undertaken, the owner should develop a servicing and maintenance schedule and should check to ensure that the schedule is being followed and the required work is carried out. Full details of the work carried out should be recorded, as these records may need to be produced in court, if an accident occurs.

Repairs

In accordance with Regulation 104, where repairs are required on load bearing parts of a vehicle hoist, an Inspector of Designated Plant must be notified before the repairs are carried out ("repairs" excludes routine maintenance as per the manufacturer's recommendations). Repairs must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation. The vehicle hoist may require inspections by the Inspector of Designated Plant before it is placed back into use.

Inspection

The owner is responsible for ensuring that vehicle hoists are inspected on a regular basis by a registered Inspector of Designated Plant, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 100.

A vehicle hoist must not be operated unless it has a current certificate of inspection (endorsed Record of Plant Inspection).

Summary

It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that vehicle hoists are registered, serviced, maintained, repaired and inspected in accordance with the above requirements.

If a vehicle hoist fails because the above requirements were not carried out, then the owner is responsible for the outcome.

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