

## MSI GUIDELINE COMPLIANCE UPDATE

On Friday the 23rd July 2021 we distributed a safety alert to our members in the Power Industry. That safety alert was created due to issues raised by ETU members regarding the VESI guideline for maintenance of MSIs July 2021. The VESI document is a guideline and can be changed at any time by VESI. VESI is not a regulator! VESI have now changed their guideline without consultation or notice. We consider VESI and the guidelines they change on a whim to be conflicted and biased.

Lifting equipment is a general term used to describe the various items of equipment including pull lifts, chain blocks, tirlors, winches, webbing slings, wire rope slings and chain slings used in rigging, lifting and tensioning tasks involving a load suspended from or pulled by the equipment.

MSIs clearly fall under the category of lifting equipment. Therefore, the ETU advice is that the following must be satisfied before use. Any MSI or lifting equipment that does not comply must be tagged out and management notified.

- A lifting register must be readily available on-site for all lifting equipment. The register should clearly list each individual piece of equipment, when it was last tested and when the next test is due. Equipment should have its own individual I.D. number. MSIs should be on the register or have their own register. If no register is available workers should tag the equipment out and request a compliant register be provided.
- MSIs should be inspected and load tested annually. If any MSI has not been load tested or inspected or has sustained any damage it should be tagged out and management notified.
- Lifting equipment should be stored securely and in a fashion that prevents damage. This means MSIs must be transported and stored appropriately. Employers must provide appropriate transport and storage solutions.

- Lifting equipment should be visually checked before each use and must be in line with with the manufacturers design. MSIs should not be modified or repaired unless by an expert or the manufacturer. Any MSI that does not comply should be tagged out and management notified. Your employer should provide the original design specs and diagrams from the manufacturer. Please ensure all MSIs are in line with the manufacturers specs.
- All workers required to utilise MSIs should be trained and inducted into their use by a trainer endorsed by the manufacturer. There are many factors that affect these devices and correct maintenance and installation is paramount to their performance.

If any of the above has not been satisfied by your employer, the MSI should be tagged out and management notified.

MSIs that are currently in use should also comply with the points above. Works on, around or adjacent to installed MSIs should be ceased until compliance can be proven by your employer. If compliance cannot be proven, the MSIs and surrounding area should be tagged out as unsafe until employers can prove compliance or an agreed Safe Work Practice/ Instruction is drafted and agreed to safely remove the MSIs from service.

If there are any issues from your employer or questions from ETU members please contact your organiser immediately.

One faulty item or component of lifting gear can seriously compromise the lift and cause failure of a load which may result in failure of the network, significant damage and/or injury to workers or the public. It is the responsibility of every workplace to provide safe and compliant lifting gear.

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