

EVENT LEARNING

Safety & Sustainable Development

008

Incident Date / Time: 13th September 2013
Location: Marshall St, Bridge, Wishaw
Works Taking Place / Incident Type: Blasting and Painting Bridge, Steel Refurbishment.
Issued By: Safety and Sustainable Development Department
Project Name / Number: Marshall St UBO36 017 / 115379
For the attention of: All Scotland and North East

Description of incident

During a planned general inspection, a scaffold was found to have more than 10% of the girder beam clamps on the scaffold lift loose. Further inspection revealed more loose fixings and as a result the scaffold 'fit for use' inspection tag was removed and all operatives stood down from the scaffold until the scaffold was re examined and passed fit for use.

CAUSES

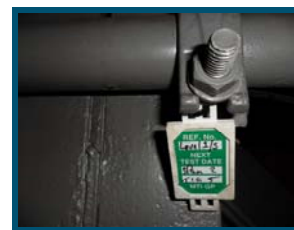
The principal contractor was not able to confirm the root cause. The scaffold had been examined and tagged three days before the inspection on the 13th September. The Principal Contractor immediately informed the scaffold designer and the scaffold inspection company. The principal contractor was then informed of the following possibilities for the loose girder beam clamps as follows:-

- They were badly fitted when they were first installed.
- They have become loose due to vibration from passing trains or inclement weather (high winds).
- They have been loosened or removed to carry out other works and been badly re-installed.

All three possibilities have been investigated and the principal contractor has implemented actions to prevent reoccurrence.

The reader is required to take action where appropriate to implement the following;

- All principal contractors should have a checking regime of girder beam clamps (a 10% check is the industry norm). Principal Contractors should have scheduled scaffold inspections and inspect immediately after inclement weather.
- An appropriate mechanism to highlight specific areas for checking like girder beam clamps. For example tagged and highlighted on the scaffold drawing for the weekly scaffold inspection.
- Where appropriate, discuss inspection regimes with your principal contractor and put the arrangements to the test at your next safety inspection.



Tagged girder beam clamps.-
Location of girder beam clamps on drawing