

INCIDENT TYPE:

LIFTING EQUIPMENT – CHAIN BLOCKS



What happened

A number of chain blocks have been found where the pulley chains have been cut and rejoined using cable ties.

This modification shortens the chain length attached to the anchor point on the the block. This length of chain can become load bearing if it passes through the block. In this case, the load would fall and there is a high risk of injury to persons or damage to the load being carried.

Modifications to lifting equipment by unauthorised personnel are effectively illegal – the modification shown above has been reported to the Health and Safety Executive and may lead to Scottish Water being prosecuted. Persons making these modifications are placing themselves and others at risk.

What actions should be taken

Scottish Water staff **MUST NOT** modify lifting equipment. If you are aware that any lifting equipment you use has been modified in any way, you **must** immediately stop using that equipment, remove it from use, mark it “DO NOT USE” and inform the person responsible for carrying out Thorough Examinations of lifting equipment.



All Scottish Water staff involved in lifting operations should have a copy of the ‘Lifting Guide’ issued by the Lifting Operations Working Group (available through your Team Leader and on Wavelength). All staff must carry out pre-use checks on lifting equipment and ensure it is fit for purpose before use. This includes making sure the equipment is tagged properly, and in date. Any member of staff knowingly using equipment that is not tagged, not fit for use or modified may be subject to disciplinary action.