

Safety Memo

**Head Office:**

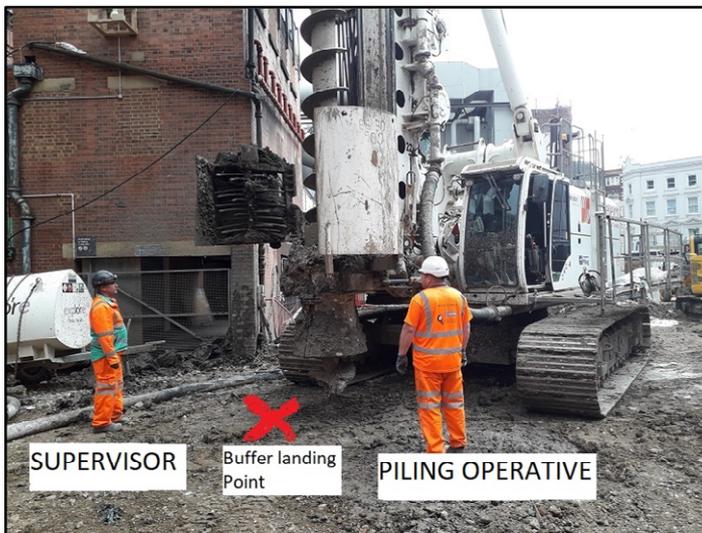
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Date: 5th October 2020
To: Select Plant, Expanded Geotechnical, FPS
From: Select Plant, Grimsby
Subject: Carden Joint Rubber Buffer Falling Object Incident
REFERENCE NO. SM-05-10-20-117PT

The Expanded Geotechnical team had completed the planned works for the day and were in the process of traveling a Bauer BG30 piling rig to park it up at the end of the shift when a rubber buffer from the carden joint suddenly fell landing approximately 1 metre from where the supervisor was standing.



The carden joint unit is a key component for rotary piling and is not required when the rig is operated in continuous flight auger (CFA) with the long extension bar. However, the installation of the carden joint does not affect the safe operation of the rig in CFA mode and has generally been supplied as a standard ancillary item.

It is most likely that the rubber buffer had been vibrating loose over a period of time which was not identified during previous servicing as it is extremely difficult to inspect on the daily / weekly inspections, as per manufacturer recommendations. This allowed both the top and bottom buffer to become fully unthreaded and the bottom buffer to fall from height complete with the threaded bar attached.

Select Plant and Expanded Geotechnical worked closely together to investigate this incident and implement the below recommendations:-

1. An immediate review of all carden joints across the Select fleet was undertaken to confirm the rubber buffers fitted were securely fixed and in good condition.
2. The carden joint and all non essential items going forward are to be removed for all works where such devices and components are not required. I.e. Carden joint supplied for rotary works only and removed for CFA operations

3. The supply of a clearly demarcated carden joint for 'transport' purposes only. This is to ensure rotary table stability during delivery to site and return from hire.



4. Review of the manufacturers guidance and identification of components that potentially prove difficult to access and inspect during normal site operations. Following this review the maintenance plans on the I Auditor system were then updated.
5. The carden unit and rubber buffers are to be inspected each time the spinner is changed on site with a recorded physical check to be made during the 250hr service.



The top and bottom buffers are to be checked to ensure they are tight, secure and in good serviceable condition.