SAFETY ALERT

INCIDENT: There was an accident in Sep 2018 in one of the Indian Refinery in which one contract worker died and another sustained injury. The accident occurred during the maintenance of a heat Exchanger when it's channel cover fell down from a height of a 15 metres along with the working platform (scaffolding) and two workers who were working on the same platform.

ROOT CAUSE: The accident occurred due to the failure of the weld joint of the sliding link of davit of the channel cover of exchanger as soon as it got loaded during the opening of the channel cover by workers involved. Due to defective weld, the sliding link failed almost instantaneously.

OBSERVATIONS: The weld of the sliding link failed due to manufacturing defect. The weld joint preparation was not done as per the drawing. There was no evidence of a groove weld joint. The weld joint at the fracture surface indicated lot of defects like porosity, slag, etc. and was of poor quality and not as per as build drawing provided. The welding of the sliding link was not part of the inspection / scrutiny of the third party inspector.

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) All the davits / lifting lugs on equipment shall be inspected before further use. (2) The inspection of the weld joints of davits including sliding link shall be included in the manufacturer's and third party inspector's Quality Assurance Plans. (3) The davits / lifting lugs / sliding links shall be visually examined before permitting lifting of any equipment / part of equipment.

WORTH MENTION: Similar Near miss incident across industry in recent past: (1) Aug-2018: During Opening of manhole cover of an equipment, a bolt of davit pipe of the manhole cover was broken and manhole cover fell down on the platform. Work was in progress at that platform. No injury reported. (2) Aug-2018: While opening Manhole cover, it came off the davit and fell onto the scaffolding platform. It was observed that the lock nut was not properly fixed on davit arm. No Injury reported.