



MANAGEMENT

5.10.2007

Opinion on the communication from the HSE (accident in England) (Safety Warning dated 1.10.2007)

HACA is an absolutely safe fall protection system. It was developed in cooperation with Deutsche Telecom (formerly Deutsche Post) for the use in radio masts.

Due to its excellent properties and absolute reliability the system has become established in all areas of climbing technology and also, for example, in a large proportion of wind power parks.

Over 50,000 (fifty thousand) of these systems are now in use.

No accident is known to this very day which is associated with the failure of the system.

To this date (5.10.2007) we have no official documents on the alleged accident in England – neither an accident report, nor a police file on the measures taken, nor a medical autopsy report about the cause of death of the person who had the accident.

In view of the information given to us verbally by several sides on the course of the accident we have considerable doubt that the accident happened through the use of the HACA system.

The fact that 3 persons were working in the tower but according to the HSE only 2 fall protection runners were confiscated proves this in particular.

This is furthermore indicated by the fact that according to the HSE there were no traces of a fall of a person attached to a runner on the rails and ladders in the entire tower.

This is also indicated by the fact the person who had the accident sustained both a head injury and comminuted fractures to both legs. Both injuries cannot arise simultaneously in the case of a fall with fall protection runner. Tests at the HSE have clearly proven this.

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The question also arising here irrespective of this is why the person who had the accident was not wearing a helmet.

This is also indicated by the fact that the fall protection runner allegedly used by the person who had the accident is still fully functioning.

This was demonstrated in tests performed by the HSE; in the tests to DIN EN 353-1:2002 the runner braked after a few millimeters.

The alleged position of the person who had the accident at the end of the alleged fall: runner approx. 80 cm above the ground on the rail at the lower end stop, the person attached to the runner at the chest, legs on the ground, body upright, head upwards, shows that the injuries cannot have been caused simultaneously.

The statement made by the HSE that the system is dangerous is definitely wrong!

The statement that the system does not pass the standard tests is also wrong.

The system has the certificate from DEKRA/EXAM that is valid under European law.

In view of the tests performed in England we have considerable doubt as to the results.

The persons present were not shown whether the test means were calibrated.

The same belt was used for the tests with the dummy although it is known that the belt must be replaced after every fall.

It was not shown whether the belt is new and could be used at all due to its age.

But the fact that there is no information about the setting of the joints is particularly serious.

This leaves the way open for manipulation of the test sequence by altering the tightness of the joints.

In view of everything seen in England and the way in which so-called results are analysed and published we must assume that the HSE does not represent a neutral position but works as the lobby for the English cable system manufacturers.

This assumption is also backed up by a study by the HSE already published in 2004 that declared all rail-conducted systems as dangerous and recommended the cable systems as safe alternative. We assume that this was a commissioned study.

We will be considering which legal steps are to be taken at a European level with the German test centre.

The statements made by the HSE are damaging to our reputation and constitute a barrier to competition that is not admissible under European law.

Our statement on the HACA system is as follows:

The system is absolutely safe.

The system complies with all current standards. It satisfies all criteria for the CE symbol.

It has a certificate valid for the whole of Europe.

The system has proved itself to have a perfect holding function in England, also for the runner allegedly used by the person who had the accident.

There is no reason not to continue to use the system on the following conditions

- highly trained staff
- wearing of prescribed safety clothing
- check for perfect function before each use
- use only to climb and descend, not to work
- rest breaks are to be taken on the rest platforms prescribed by the standard.

From our point of view no additional safety systems need to be used if the system is used correctly .

With best regards

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