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Tecalemit raises standards on new 2 post screw hoists

Tecalemit marketing boss says government regulation does not guarantee hoists meet standards.



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Safety by Design.

Tecalemit raises standards on new 2 post screw hoists

As a Workshop owner, manager or employee you are naturally concerned with safety and whether the equipment that you install in your workshop is safe to use. In this article Tecalemit Sales and Marketing Manager Greg Birse talks about Tecalemit's latest generation of screw hoists, the TEC3100 and TEC3100C and why he believes they are the safest in the business. Greg also raises some key questions to consider when buying a hoist.

"At Tecalemit, we take safety seriously. We employ a team of engineering, manufacturing and quality professionals to ensure that safety features are designed into our products. The TEC3100 and TEC3100C are manufactured to exacting standards and have been tested exhaustively to prove they exceed Australian Standards requirements" said Greg, before posing the question;

"Which is better - a device that allows an accident to happen then saves your life, or one that prevents the accident in the first place?"

Tecalemit screw hoists are fitted with a Failsafe Interlock that prevents accidents from happening. The interlock is a mechanical device that prevents the hoist from being used once lift nuts require replacement. Greg said this was in contrast to cable or hydraulic lifting systems that rely solely on regular human inspection and intervention to ensure worn or damaged cables and components are replaced. "The Interlock doesn't replace safety checks, but it will prevent accidents happening" said Greg.

A ten year mechanical design life on lift nuts is supported by roll formed lifting

screws with a smooth work hardened surface for lift nuts to run on and an oil lubrication system which lubricates the screws every time the hoist is raised to protect lift nuts from wear. The new hoists feature a durable powder coat finish and upgraded electrics for improved ongoing serviceability, including a state of the art fail-safe printed circuit controller on the TEC3100C that replaces ageing PLC technology.

Greg asks buyers to think carefully about safety when it comes to buying a new hoist. He cites University of South Australia research which shows many buyers rely on government regulated product registration to protect them, with the view that ...'if it wasn't safe they wouldn't allow it to be sold here'. Greg put it to us that product

registration requires no 'proof of performance', and is no proof that a hoist complies with Australian Standards or any other standard. Greg said "Buyers need to be aware that the government has not 'signed off on safety' on their behalf by registering a hoist for sale. State legislation and regulation refer to standards in different ways but invariably they put the onus on owners, suppliers, importers, manufacturers and designers to ensure plant is safe to use".

"Safety does not come in the form of a 5 or 10 year guarantee or public liability

insurance" said Greg. "Our new two post screw hoists are designed to the Australian Standard which requires a 25 year structural life and ten year mechanical life."

"For us, safety has as much to do with the things we leave out, as the protection we build in."

Greg explained that Tecalemit take occupational health and safety regulations and hoist safety standards seriously. "It appears that some suppliers disregard Australian Standards by promoting remote controls, which in our opinion are hazardous. A remote control could place the operator under a moving hoist which is specifically outlawed in AS2550.1(1). Occupational health and safety regulations require designers, manufacturers, importers,

and deal with companies who could back up their obligations with safe, strong, reliable products, and his final word.... "Before you place the order, ask yourself 'has the product been built to a standard or a price', and what price do you put on your head?" Good information on Occupational Health and Safety Regulations is available from state Workcover and Worksafe authorities. Australian Standards(1)(2) for vehicle hoists are available from Standards Australia.

(1) AS2550.1:1996 (Cranes – Safe Use) Part 9 - Vehicle Hoists addresses safe use, maintenance and inspection procedures for vehicle hoists.

(2) AS1418.9: 1996 (Cranes hoists and winches) Part 9 - Vehicle Hoists, covers hoist design.

Safety does not come in the form of a 5 or 10 year guarantee or public liability insurance. At Tecalemit we design to the Australian Standard, which requires a 25 year structural life and ten year mechanical life.

suppliers and owners to identify this kind of risk in plant and take steps to eliminate it. Greg asks buyers to compare Tecalemit's approach to that of some other suppliers, saying "We've identified the misuse of remote controls as a foreseeable risk and our policy is not to supply them. For us, safe design has as much to do with the things we leave out, as the protection we build in. Some suppliers appear either to disagree with our interpretation or just don't get it". Greg said that with moves toward industry self regulation, an owner's best protection was to be informed

Tecalemit is an operating division of Cooper Standard Automotive, an AS/NZS ISO 9001 and QS9000 certified company and a leading manufacturer of vehicle hoists, lubrication equipment and automotive fluid system components.

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