

# SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE  
SAFETY GROUP

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<b>Number:</b>	SA0040
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Crane Control - Deadman Switch on Joystick</b>
<b>Date:</b>	December 2010

## Incident:

A crane operator had lowered a pack of RHS onto a packing table ready to be re-strapped for transport. The chains were still secured around the pack when the operator bent down to unravel straps which he intended to use to securely strap the pack.

The operator had the crane control joystick secured around his waist as per the manufacturer's instructions for crane operation while performing normal lifting duties.

Inadvertently, the operator activated the crane control joystick with his stomach or shirt which pulled the pack of RHS out of packing table narrowly missing him in its movement.



## Key Lessons:

- Crane joystick controls can be easily activated accidentally.
- Operators carrying crane controls while engaged in other work tasks can activate controls in error.
- Chains attached to the crane should be removed from materials being transported immediately after placing in the desired location.

## Recommendations:

- Crane controls should not be attached to a worker during any other task other than during crane operation.
- If Crane controls are worn or outdated they should be replaced.
- Crane controls should be fitted with two deadman switches to avoid accidental activation ensuring operator safety, comfort and ease of operation.

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