

# ◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



## Lifting Operation Fatality – Non Crossrail Site

The following information has been taken from a Health and Safety Alert distributed by KEO International Consultants. The circumstances, causes and learning opportunities may be of benefit to those working on Crossrail contracts.

### The Incident

During a routine lifting operation, a hoisting cable failed, resulting in a 300kg load falling 3 metres to the ground. The Injured Person was acting as the principal slinger for the load. The load hit him just below the chest and came to rest on his legs, the force caused him to fall backwards and hit the back of his head on a concrete slab. He suffered crush injuries to his lower body and a significant head injury; he was taken to hospital and died of his injuries 72 hours later.

### Key Factors

- The incident investigation determined that the key factor in the event was the incorrect termination of the hoisting cable at the jib end. Despite the use of non-recommended, non-complaint termination, the tower crane was inspected and certified safe to use by a **third party**.



Image shows the failed hoist and fallen the load

### Contributory causes

- The operative had no formal training as a slinger and therefore may not have been fully aware of the risks, leading him to stand too close to the elevated load.
- The only available manufacturer's manual for the tower crane was in German, making it difficult to review the recommended method of erection and rigging.
- The weekly checks documented by the contractor did not cover the hoisting cable termination.

A Crossrail Health and Safety Campaign focussing on Lifting Operations will commence on 21 February 2013