

## Dropped Object: Failed Lifting Eye

### *Description of Incident (May 19, 2025)*

Two workers were lifting an electric motor to a mezzanine level for installation when a lifting eye failed during the vertical ascent, causing the motor to fall approximately 5–6 feet. Exclusion zones were adhered to, no one was in the drop zone, and no injuries occurred. The job was immediately stopped, and the near miss was reported to the Supervisor and Safety Personnel.

### *What Went Wrong*

A post incident inspection of the motor and rigging gear found that the lifting eye had backed itself out of the threaded installation slot due to incorrect swivel eye assembly, reducing the length of usable threading. This occurred as the washer was incorrectly installed on the top of the nut instead of the bottom.

It was confirmed that the lifting eye was correctly assembled during an inspection in January, as evidenced by photographs included in the third-party lifting inspection report; however, the investigation revealed that the unit was subsequently disassembled and reassembled prior to its installation on the motor.

Testing has demonstrated that this style of lifting eye can inadvertently disassemble when not installed and poses an error prone situation during reassembly.

### *Corrective Actions & Recommendations*

The following corrective actions were implemented:

- The operator issued platform directive to standardize lift eyes to a one piece, non-disassemble unit (See Figure 3) and removed and disposed of all non-standardized swivel lift eyes from service.
- All motors were inspected at offsite locations for installed lift eyes and those that did not adhere to the revised standard were removed.

The operator also recommends that readers consider the following learning questions for error prone situations:

- Has our risk assessment considered all potential risks?
- Have we made any assumptions, or do we have preconceived biases regarding the work to be done?
- What barriers do we have in place to prevent injury should an incident occur?

### *Applicable Lifesaving Rule*

IOGP's [Line of Fire](#) lifesaving rule is applicable to this incident.

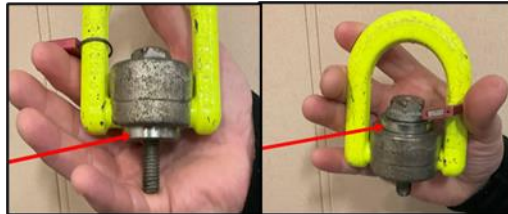
*Posted on July 24, 2025.*

[Read more](#) Atlantic Canada Offshore Safety Alerts.

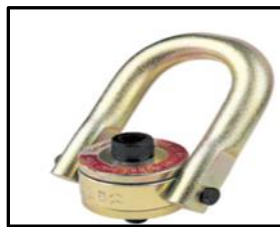
### Related Images



*Fig. 1. Disassembled lifting eye. Pieces from Left-Right: D-ring, bolt, washer, nut*



*Fig. 2. (L) Correctly assembled lifting eye; (R) Incorrectly assembled lifting eye*



*Fig. 3. Replacement lifting eye*