



Safety Alert

Copies of Crosby Shackles

It has come to light while inspecting shackles in West Africa that several copies of Crosby Shackles have been introduced to the marketplace. These shackles are NOT up to the quality standards of RRC-271D and it is recommended they be immediately removed from service.



Crosby Shackle



Copy

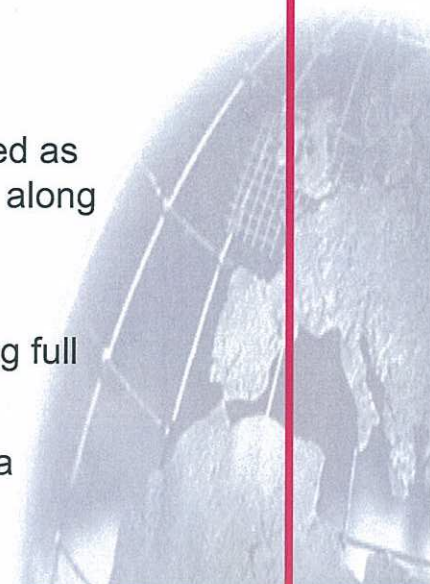
The points to look for in deciding whether you have a Crosby Shackle or a copy are:

On the face, (a) Crosby Name should be embossed as per the Crosby Logo, (b) The CE mark should appear along with (c) markings of the 45 degree angles

On the rear of the shackle should appear 2 different groupings of IDs (3 for Belgium manufacture) providing full traceability of the shackle.

The pin should also be stamped (d) on the head with a traceable ID number.

**Not Authorized by Crosby
(See Attached Clarification of May 2007)**





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PAUL BOECKMAN, P.E.
VICE PRESIDENT ENGINEERING

May, 24, 2007

Subject: Crosby Shackles

To Whom It May Concern:

The Crosby Group, Inc. has recently been made aware of a counterfeit shackle alert that has been circulating. Please be advised that the undated and unauthorized alert contains some of the photographs and information of a previous unauthorized alert of 2004. The alert is not based on a new occurrence or finding, and is wrong and misleading. We have contacted the OSHA Office of Maritime Enforcement (referenced on the recent alert) with regard to the content, and they have provided a clarification and retraction (see the attached email from OSHA Director of Office of Maritime Enforcement).

To make sure we maintain the confidence of our product users, Crosby has established a systematic review process of any possible suspected counterfeit Crosby products. We first review pictures of the product and then perform a metallurgical study of any suspect product to make a final determination. Through this review process, we have evaluated a number of suspected products and found them to be genuine Crosby product. We have never detected a counterfeit shackle in the U.S. Given this, and the fact that we produce millions of shackles each year, there is not a counterfeit issue regarding our shackles.

The primary reason people submit possible counterfeit products to us for our review is the appearance of lettering. The lettering and marking of the product is only one characteristic to consider when determining the authenticity. The lettering will vary somewhat from each size of product, and may change with each revision of the forging die. In fact, although not currently done, Crosby has produced shackles with the "Crosby" lettering in all capital letters, rather than the styled Crosby logo in block letters. Therefore, a visual difference of lettering is not indicative of a counterfeit product. Additionally, there have been changes in the manufacturing method to improve the product through the years. These improvements can change the size and shape of the product and lettering.

We have been diligent about investigating all concerns that users have regarding the authenticity of products. If there is any suspected product, we stand ready to have it analyzed and make a factual determination in a matter of days. In closing, our objective is to provide the industry with the most accurate information regarding potential counterfeits. We are prepared to review any suspected product and make a determination of the authenticity. Thanks for the opportunity to clarify this matter and get the facts to our valued customers. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks and regards,

Paul Boeckman, P.E.
Vice President, Engineering
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Paul A. Boeckman

From: "Butler, Steve - OSHA" <Butler.Steve@dol.gov>
To: "Paul A. Boeckman" <PaulBoeckman@TheCrosbyGroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 9:56 AM
Subject: Copy of Counterfeit Shackle Page

Paul:

We have reviewed the "Caution" Counterfeit Shackle Page and discussed this "Caution" page with the OSHA accredited agency "Signatory Authority" referenced in the page and he: (1) confirmed that neither he nor any representative of his company originated the page or contributed to the content, and (2) that the reference in the page to weight testing and deformation at 40% of the SWL is not valid.

As we discussed last Friday, the statement in the "Caution" page regarding shackles with lead capitol letters only and shackles with all capitol letters as a means to determine the manufacturer of origin is incorrect (this misinformation originated from a report from several years ago regarding a shackle found in Europe that was apparently incorrectly identified as counterfeit).

Finally, although OSHA's Office of Maritime Enforcement is looking into this matter and would issue a "Hazard Alert" or other appropriate safety information if warranted, to date we have found all reports of counterfeit shackles in service in the United States to be unsubstantiated or incorrect.

Respectfully,
Stephen Butler, Director
Office of Maritime Enforcement
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