Subject: G.A.L./HOLLISTER-WHITNEY “ROPE GRIPPER”
Models #600/605/610 may need retrofit

Sent to: Elevator Contractors (Scope U1, F1 & Consultants)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 During recent periodic inspections of passenger elevators, the installed ROPE GRIPPERS failed to operate as intended. As a result of this failure, the “grippers” did not grab the ropes and consequently did not slow down the elevator or disconnect normal elevator operation.

1.2 According to the recently received information from HOLLISTER-WHITNEY, during 1996 HOLLISTER-WHITNEY sent to the company that installed and maintained those elevators, information on possible malfunctioning of the “ROPE GRIPPERS” along with instructions for retrofitting of “guide angles” that were offered at no charge.

1.3 According to the mailing list provided to TSSA by Hollister-Whitney, the Hollister-Whitney information was sent to 31 companies in Ontario and 27 other elsewhere in Canada. The maintenance supervisor, of the Company that installed and maintained the elevators mentioned in 1.1, was not aware of the Hollister-Whitney information. TSSA surveyed contractors and established that the information coming from component suppliers may not necessarily reach the “right” personnel within a company who ensure compliance with safety alerts. They consider TSSA’s Director’s Rulings or Bulletins as the most effective means of disseminating “Safety Alerts”.

1.4 With the permission from Hollister-Whitney, TSSA is enclosing a copy of the their latest information.

Contractors may receive another direct communication from Hollister-Whitney on the same subject, as TSSA has supplied them with the list of all elevator contractors registered in Ontario.

1.5 The following order is issued in accordance with Subsection 10(8) of the Elevating Devices Act.

2. ORDER TO CONTRACTORS

2.1 Contractors shall immediately examine all elevator installations that are equipped with “Rope Grippers” by Hollister-Whitney, and on installations equipped with gripper MODEL #600, #605, or #610, the contractors shall:
(a) test all #600, #605, and #610 “Rope Grippers”
(b) on any malfunctioning “Grippers” install guide angles as specified by Hollister-Whitney (see attachments) in order to comply with Clause 3.16 of CSA B44 Code, or
(c) take other steps necessary to make elevators to comply with CSA B44 Code.

2.2 If the required work does not constitute a part of your maintenance contract, and you cannot obtain authorization from the elevator owner to complete the work, you shall inform this office immediately, indicating the elevator installation numbers (to the attention of Mr. John Murphy, re: Safety Alert #..98), so that we may issue an order to the owner to have this order completed.

C.E. Vlahovic, Chief Engineer

J. Murphy, Chief Inspector
Re: "ROPE GRIPPERS" Model #600, #605, #610
Shipped prior to March 1996

Due to recent discussions with the Technical Standard Safety Foundation, we have become aware that some of our "ROPE GRIPPERS" Models #600, #605, and #610 are still malfunctioning.

In March of 1996 we advised you of this possible problem on "GRIPPERS" that were shipped prior to that time.

This problem occurs when one or more of the guide pins is hit either during shipment or installation. As the movable shoe closes or as it opens it tilts and binds on the guide pins and prevents the "GRIPPER" from operating. HOLLISTER-WHITNEY has available a guide angle which prevents tilting of this shoe. This angle can be easily installed on an existing "GRIPPER". Please note that this problem is rare on the #600 "GRIPPER" and is more likely to occur on a #605 or #610 "GRIPPER".

Since this is a safety concern, we ask that your maintenance personnel operate the test switch on the side of the pumping unit to assure the "GRIPPER" grabs the ropes. This can be done with the elevator stationary. Please contact us immediately, and advise the Model number, if a malfunction occurs, so that we can supply angles to correct this or any other problem.

Note that guide angles were supplied on "GRIPPERS" shipped after March 1996, and that the new "GRIPPER" Models #618, #620, #622, #624, #625, and #626 operate with a different guide system; thus eliminating this problem.

HOLLISTER-WHITNEY ELEVATOR CORP.

[Signature]

Frank H. Musholt
Secretary/Treasurer
GUIDE ANGLE INSTALLATION FOR #600, #605, & #610 ROPE GRIPPER

MATERIAL INCLUDED FOR MODEL #600:
(1) Left hand and (1) right hand guide angle
(2) Hole position fixture
(3) 5/16" hex. hd. cap screws
(4) 5/16" shoulder bolt

MATERIAL INCLUDED FOR MODEL #605 & #610:
(1) Guide angle (may be used on either side)
(2) Hole position fixture
(3) 5/16" hex. hd. cap screws
(4) 5/16" shoulder bolt

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Clamp rope gripper against ropes.

2. Drill 1/4" and tap 5/16"-18 N.C. hole in existing spring recess hole. (See Fig. 1)

3. Place the hole position fixture against the front edge of the side wall so that it is also aligned with the slot in the guide angle. (See Fig. 2)

4. While holding the fixture in position, drill a 3/16" dia. spot hole approx. 1/8" deep in the side wall. Then drill and tap it for a 5/16"-18 N.C. hole and attach the shoulder bolt. (See Fig. 2)

5. Remove (4) balance springs. This will allow greater force when applying the gripper. (See Fig. 3)

6. Activate the rope gripper several times to insure proper operation.

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