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SERVICE BULLETIN

GAR-BRO CONSIDERS COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SERVICE BULLETIN MANDATORY PRIOR TO FURTHER USE OF THE AFFECTED EQUIPMENT

EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 19, 1988 - Reprinted July 2014

SUBJECT: ALL GAR-BRO LAYDOWN BUCKETS EQUIPPED WITH SWING TYPE

LIFTING BAIL FABRICATED FROM FLAT BAR AND PLATE

SCOPE: Covers laydown buckets with the following item numbers regardless

of gate size or whether gate operation is manual or air:

414, 416-L, 424, 426-L, 434, 436-L, 444, 446-L, 464, 466-L, 494,

496-L, 4124, 4126-L, 4156-L, 4186-L, 4236-L

NOTE: THIS BULLETIN DOES NOT APPLY TO OBSOLETE LAYDOWN

BUCKETS WHICH USED PIPE RATHER THAN FLAT BAR AS PART OF THE LIFTING BAIL. CALL THE FACTORY IF THERE IS ANY

QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOUR BUCKET IS AFFECTED

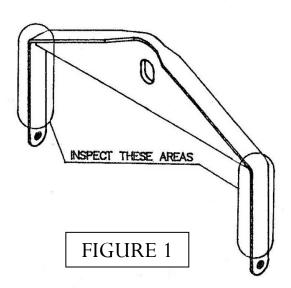
BY THIS BULLETIN.

Gar-Bro has recently received several field reports of lifting bails on laydown buckets which have failed under load while the bucket was being hoisted.

Investigation by the factory, additional stress analysis, and further metallurgical analysis by a qualified laboratory have indicated that these failures are due to fatigue cracks occurring close to the junction of the bail plate and the bail flat bar with subsequent failure occurring when these cracks are undetected during daily inspection and grow to the point of failure.

To date, the failures which have occurred took place on buckets at least 15 or 20 years old which further reinforces the conclusion that metal fatigue is responsible. Technically speaking, metal fatigue is defined as non-reversible or non-elastic movement of atoms in the crystalline structure of a particular metal placed under stress with a resulting strain or stretching of the part. Often this movement is not obvious because movements which do occur are of very small magnitudes. Over a period of time, this movement will eventually lead to failure of a stressed member. Metal fatigue may be easily demonstrated by simply bending a straightened paper clip back and forth several times. After several cycles of bending, the clip will break – this is metal fatigue. If a small notch were filed into the wire of the paper clip and the wire were again bent back and forth, the clip will break at the notch and it will be noted that the break took fewer cycles of bending than the clip without the notch. This is a simple example of what is occurring with the older laydown bucket lifting bails.

Visual examination of the failed lifting bails shows, in all cases, notches or indentations on the bail bar (see figure 1) in the area of the bail where the flat bar contacts the cone of the bucket when the bail is pivoted out of the way for charging of the bucket. As explained above, these notches will, over a period of time, cause a crack to form, and this crack will eventually grow to the point that insufficient flat bar is available to support the bucket when it is suspended, and the bail will fail. This process takes many, many lifting cycles to finally reach the point of failure, and our older buckets are reaching this point in their lifetime.



ACTION REQUIRED:

BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM, WE MUST INSIST THAT ALL LIFTING BAILS ON THE ABOVE

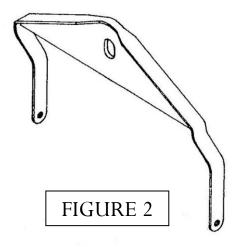
AFFECTED MODELS BE INSPECTED PER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION PRIOR TO FURTHER USE.

It is absolutely necessary that the bail or bails to be checked be thoroughly cleaned of all paint, corrosion, or concrete on the areas to be inspected. Sand blasting of the bail is an acceptable method of cleaning. Failure to accomplish this step before beginning the inspection of the bail could hide potentially serious flaws.

Visually inspect the lifting bail in the general area where the flat bar intersects the steel plate beam for cracks, dents, or nicks as indicated on (Figure 1). The inspected area includes both the outer edges of the flat bar (narrow dimension) and the width of the bar (large dimension). Inspection should be made using sound visual inspection techniques aided by dye penetrant inspection. These inspection requirements should be accomplished on each bail as a minimum standard, with further testing using ultrasound or other inspection methods if personnel are so trained.

In the event that a crack, cracks, or nicks are found, the bail MUST BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE AND DESTROYED. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REWELD OR REPAIR IN ANY WAY ANY CRACKS OR NICKS. Repair of the nicks or cracks by grinding out the material and re-welding must not be attempted since this does not really remove the problem because the weld material added is harder and, therefore, more brittle than the parent bail material and thus has even less tolerance to fatigue cracking than the original bail.

Inspect the bail flat bars as shown in (Figure 2, next page) for distortion due to excessive side loading when the bucket was hoisted. Note that the distortion shown in the drawing is greatly exaggerated and any bending in the bail flat bars will probably be much less than shown. Any deformation, regardless of magnitude, as shown in the figure requires that the bail be REMOVED FROM SERVICE AND DESTROYED. Straightening of the bail flat bars while cold or by heating and rebending should not be attempted because of the possibility of hardening the flat bar and reducing its tolerance to metal fatigue (See Figure 2, next page).



Inspect the bail pivot bolts, bail stop bolts, bail pivot bushing, and bail stop bushing for wear. Replace these parts if any wear is evident.

Replacement bails and related parts are available from the factory. The appropriate part numbers and pricing for each of the above listed laydown buckets are listed in the appendix.

Buckets that pass the above inspection are still subject to eventual fatigue failure with continued use, and, therefore, continued visual inspections as outlined above are mandatory.

If you have any questions at all regarding this service bulletin or the inspection procedure, please contact the factory at 1-800-643-8192 or via email at garbroco@garbro.com. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

