

◀ **BEST PRACTICE** **INFORMATION** ▶



Retaining Rings

The incident

C430 steel erectors were installing bolts into splice plates beneath a waler in the W2 shaft. The first operative was to hold the air driven impact driver and the 2nd operative was to move the socket from bolt to bolt. Unfortunately the socket was not fully attached and the operative accidentally pulled the trigger. As a result, the socket deflected off the bolt and struck the second operative in the face. Although the operative was wearing full PPE, he was taken to A&E where he underwent minor treatment to the laceration from the impact of the socket.

Upon investigation it was apparent that other than friction, there was nothing to hold the socket and driver together when in this position.

Best Practice

This best practice submission aims to make all aware of the method Laing O'Rourke Strabag mandated to ensure prevention of a re-occurrence where sockets cannot slip off when using mechanical aids. LORS investigated and encouraged their subcontractor to consider the use of a retaining ring pin system.

The subcontractor then provided IRIMO steel ring pins for their operatives. These attach around the base of the socket (see photographs) and prevent it from flinging off the driver attachment.

This best practice ensures the safety of anyone in the immediate area around or below the tightening of bolts on site, especially when working directly underneath the bolts or working at height.

