Magnus VLF Multi-Cassette Unit

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We are re-issuing this safety alert due to the occurrence of a second Magnus VLF Multi-Cassette Unit (MCU) jackscrew nut failure. Other nut failures have also been prevented through the inspection and replacement of extremely worn nuts prior to failure.

Immediate Actions Required

- Continue with visual inspections of all Magnus VLF MCU jackscrew nuts for signs of wear, lack of lubricant, and nut backlash measurements. Carry out preventative lubrication on a shortened three month interval and not six monthly as was previously requested.
- For devices MT211 and lower, review, order, and install on a priority basis the required safety upgrade kit (FCO CA09968) on ALL Magnus VLF MCUs in the field that have not yet been upgraded. For this FCO you will need kit number 512-00367A.
- Immediately act upon any call from a customer informing us that their MCU is making abnormal noise such as squealing and grinding. The operator must be advised of the potential problem and safety concerns and instructed not to open any access panels to the MCU. Under no circumstances shall the operator be instructed to lubricate and/or visually check the condition of the nut.
  Lower the MCU forks and disable the MCU (option MCU disable) until it can be fitted with the complete upgrade kit (including the new lubricator, the braked motor, the safety steel nut, and the appropriate controlled release).

Safety Advice for Service Engineers

Preventing Injury

When servicing the MCU, under no circumstances should you reach into or get inside the MCU unless the forks are positioned at their lowest possible position. Extreme caution must still be exercised since the forks will still be raised 10 mm (0.4 in.) above the frame and all of the weight is still supported by the drive nut. Take note of and avoid the potential crush zones between the forks and the frame, between the forks and the supported cassettes, and other parts of the MCU in the event that the drive nut were to fail.

Note: From the cassette 0 position, continue to further lower the forks with the MCU jog panel until the lower limit switch stops the drive motor (the safety interlock override key switch must be in the **Interlock Override** position).

Alternatively, the forks can be lowered onto two blocks, one on each side, in order to remove the load from the drive nut. The blocks would need to support the total load which could comprise of the following: the frame (1000 lbs / 455 Kg), the unloaded cassettes (up to four, each 150 lbs / 68 Kg), and plates in the cassette (up to 500 lbs / 227 Kg per cassette) for a total load of 3600 lbs / 1636 Kg. In most cases the cassettes will need to be emptied and then removed from the MCU for access purposes.

Note: Carefully lower the forks onto the two blocks with the MCU jog panel (the safety interlock override key switch must be in the **Interlock Override** position). Ensure that the weight of the fork assembly is securely supported but does not travel too far causing the jackscrew to be driven upward raising the removable top panel.

Feedback Required

Please provide all feedback directly to Aleksander Lemanowicz by email. This information is required for all site visits to customers with Multi-Cassette Units attached to Magnus VLF Autoloaders.