

## SAFETY ALERT kia mataara

<b>Title</b>	<b>Hydraulic Ram Top Link</b>
<b>Date</b>	11 September 2020
<b>Incident Summary</b>	Hydraulic Top Link snapped at the weld between the ram and rod.
<b>Shared Learning / Safety Alert</b>	<p>A hydraulic top link has snapped with the attachment dropping. In this situation a post rammer was attached with potential for a worker traveling behind the tractor on a 2-wheel motorbike being hit. The weld had some visible rust.</p> <p>Independent inspection of the weld identified that the weld had been poorly done, with lack of root penetration, the weld was not well aligned with the joint and there was possible lack of root gap – shrinkage causing the initial crack under load.</p> <p>The manufacturer has been advised of the incident and inspected the top link.</p> <p>They have committed to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add more details and precautions to the guide which is sent out with each toplinek.</li> <li>- Do a blog around toplinek precautions and what to check</li> <li>- 2 of our main welders have got welding certifications since this issue to ensure full penetration of the weld from the ballend onto the base</li> <li>- Have changed welding wire to a high penetration metal core welding wire.</li> </ul> <p>Please check all welds on hydraulic components for any visible rust, cracking, or paint discolouration. If an issue is identified, please report in risk manager for follow-up investigation.</p>

