# Providing integrity of flare stacks at refineries by MFL inspection of guy ropes

1<sup>st</sup> Oman inspection & Integrity Conference

17 October 2019

#### Flare stack and mast







## The wire rope



# **Ferrous steel wires**

# Diameters from 13 to 45 mm

Lubricated



## **Guy rope types**

## Six-stranded IWRC rope





## **Spiral strand rope**



#### Guy rope wear

Operate in sedentary environment.

Subject to deterioration.

-Axial tension causes stress.

-Wind loads cause vibration – leads to internal wire nicking.

-Sand storms cause surface abrasion.

-Atmosphere precipitation causes corrosion.

-Combustion products of flare causes etching.

-Mishandling during installation causes kinks.

LMA (Loss of Metallic cross-sectional Area)

& wire breaks (Local Faults).

Guy ropes will eventually fail unless timely replaced!



## Visual inspection of guy ropes





#### **Visual inspection limitations**

Presence of surface lubrication, pollution and icing hinders accuracy.

Only outer wires can be inspected, internal defects unseen.

A good wire rope can be discarded due to insignificant outer wear.



## Visual inspection is inaccurate and misleading!



#### **Visual Inspection Discard Criteria**

#### **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)**

#### §75.1434 Retirement criteria.

Unless damage or deterioration is removed by cutoff, wire ropes shall be removed from service when any of the following conditions occurs:

(a) The number of broken wires within a rope lay length, excluding filler wires, exceeds either—

(1) Five percent of the total number of wires; or

(2) Fifteen percent of the total number of wires within any strand;

(b) On a regular lay rope, more than one broken wire in the valley between strands in one rope lay length;

(c) A loss of more than one-third of the original diameter of the outer wires;

(d) Rope deterioriation from corrosion;

(e) Distortion of the rope structure;

(f) Heat damage from any source;

(g) Diameter reduction due to wear that exceeds six percent of the baseline diameter measurement; or

(h) Loss of more than ten percent of rope strength as determined by nondestructive testing.



#### Magnetic Rope Testing (MRT)





## **MRT** is mandatory in many industries

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD	<b>ISO</b> <b>4309</b> Fifth edition 2017-11	BRITISH STANDARD	BS EN 12927-5		
Cranes — Wire ropes — Care maintenance, inspection and Appareils de levage à charge suspendue — Câbles e Entretien et maintenance, inspection et dépose	e and I discard n acter —	Safety requirements for cableway installations designed to carry persons — Ropes — Part 8: Magnetic rope testing (MRT)			Guidance on Examination of Steel Wire Rope Through Magnetic Rope Testing (MRT)
<ul> <li>This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 430 revised and contains the following changes:</li> <li>magnetic rope test (MRT) methodology and discard criteria ar inspection of wire ropes;</li> <li>guidance is given on when to use magnetic rope testing and h inspection results;</li> </ul>	9:2010), which has been technica e introduced, as an aid to the interr ow to combine its results with oth	lly se European Standard EN 12927-82004 has the status of a tilsh Standard ral		International Marine Contractors Association www.imca-int.com	IMCA LR 004, IMCA HSSE 023, IMCA M 197 Rev. I October 2018
<ul> <li>an example of an MRT report is provided.</li> </ul>	s international standard was develo	SO COPPENS WITHOUT ISST PERMISSION EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY COPPERSHIT LAW	British Si	Si tandards ablished in the Decision on Principles for the	Image: State 1: Constant of Selitabahamen Hoogen Kongart, and Selitabahamen H
Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.					<u>ВООК 3</u>
Standard Practice for Electromagnetic Examination of Ferromagnetic Steel Wire Rope <sup>1</sup>					SURVEY OF MAGNETIC ROPE TESTING OF STEEL WIRE ROPES
	This standard is issu original adoption or, superscript epsilon (	and under the fixed designation E1571; the number immediately followin in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses $\varepsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.	Compiled between September 2011 and February 2015 by the OITAF Work-Committee No II <b>Published in September 2015</b>		
	E NOTE-Section	Section 6.2 updated editorially in June 2016.			

#### What do you need to carry MRT

**Operate proper MRT equipment** 

**Operate equipment by competent personnel** 



#### **INTROS Wire rope flaw detector**

Magnetic head on the rope.

Basic unit for logging data.

Wintros software.

Over 1000 kits sold to

Over 250 customers in

Over 50 countries

Over the past 20 years!













### **Inspection Procedure – Equipment preparation**

Selection of magnetic head.



Installing corresponding sensors and sleeves.

Affixing the calibrated Basic Unit to the Magnetic Head.

Setting up roller system (optional).





#### **Inspection Procedure – Calibration**

Requires two known LMA values:

A whole rope (0% LMA) and a section with known LMA (amount of broken wires), -or-A whole rope (0% LMA) and additional wires taped on (negative LMA), -or-A whole rope (0% LMA) and no rope (100% LMA).





#### **Inspection procedure - Setup**

Input of zero distance point.

Installation of the INTROS on the rope.

Hoisting of belay line (return sling).

Installation of the Climber unit / Connecting winch hauling rope.





#### **Inspection Procedure – Winch**



## **Inspection Procedure – Climber**





#### **Inspection Procedure – Recording**

Magnetic head to travel the whole length of the rope pushed by Climber / pulled by winch.

Return sling prevents rotation and aids to pull the Magnetic head down.





Express data viewing after inspection.

Visual verification of located breaks visually (if possible).

**Report compilation.** 









## LMA and LF traces of 45 mm guy rope





## Zoom-in section of 45 mm guy rope containing defects





### Current standard: ISO 4309:2017

_	Loss of Metallic Area (expressed in %)				
Over a length of 6d <sup>a</sup>	6				
Over a length of 30d <sup>a</sup>	10				
<sup>a</sup> $d = nominal diameter of rope.$					







#### **Rope Strength Safety Factor Calculation**



SINTRON ::

Years

#### **Our experience – Inspection of flare stack guy ropes**



#### **Our experience – Inspection of communication tower guy ropes**



### **Our partner – Flameout International**

**Tension** measurement & re-tensioning.

Verticality check & correction.

**Greasing** & re-greasing.

Tension meters & total stations calibrated to match correct guy wire.

Flare tip, deadman anchor and guy wire replacement also available.







#### **Our referrals**



To whom it may concern

Aries Group of Companies is a multinational conglomerates in the Middle East with 43 companies operating in 15 countries across the world. Aries Marine and Engineering Services has the largest Inspection and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) division in the Middle East. The spectrum of our services includes wire rope NDT and certification using Magnetic Flux Leakage (MFL) method with strong magnetization. For the purpose of wire rope NDT we selected MFL instrument INTROS manufactured by the company Intron Plus. With this instrument, we may currently inspect the wire ropes up to 64 mm in diameter regardless of their construction and presence of grease on the rope. INTROS is a specially designed instrument developed for NDT of wire ropes in the most reliable way. The design of the instrument allows its operation in difficult operating conditions, wherever the rope is installed. Our inspection team was trained and certified by the supplier of the equipment for operation of the instrument and data interpretation.

Due to strong rope magnetization the INTROS accurately measures loss of metallic area and detects outer and inner broken wires. The software Wintros enhances instrument capabilities for processing and interpretation of inspection data. We have inspected number of ropes, including ropes of cranes, Ship Lift, Flare Stack, etc. Data obtained from inspection allows extend rope life to avoid unreasonable costs related to discard and exchange, or timely discard the rope, if it is dangerous, to avoid accident.

We may recommend the Intros as reliable instrument for inspection of wire ropes in different situations





Our experience shows that the INTROS® system is easy and convenient to fit and straight forward in use and in connection with a well prepared technician gives the best result. These factors play a major role in keeping down risks and costs.

We want to thank Intron Plus and its personnel for their continuous support and good service during these years, and give our highest recommendation to INTROS® system.

Juan Jose Montes Acosta Section Head - Flare Division & Rope Access Dept

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الشركة العربية للأنابيب والخدمات المحدودة (أنابيب)



#### To Whom It May Concern

REF:LOC/INT/JA/1216/01 7th Decmber, 2016

LIFTEK FZ

Sub: Letter of Commendation

Liftek, as a leading inspection company in the Middle East, offer a wide portfolio of services including crane and lifting equipment inspection, in particular, inspection of steel wire ropes.

For non-destructive inspection of steel wire ropes, we use wire rope tester INTROS with magnetic heads MH 20-40 and MH 40-64, manufactured by Intron Plus Ltd. A technician from Intron Plus Ltd, trained and certified our inspection team at our facility in UAE, which was very useful.

We use the equipment INTROS for inspection of wire ropes onshore and offshore, operated at cranes, winches, etc. The instrument INTROS has relatively small size and weight. MFL principle of operation with strong magnetization of wire rope ensures good performance, i.e. high LMA measuring accuracy and LF sensitivity. The software Wintros delivered along with the equipment enhances potential of the equipment dramatically. Design of the equipment is rugged enough to use it in a heavy environment and satisfies most of our applications. In certain cases, when we need assistance from Intron Plus Ltd., we receive on-time consultancy and

Specialists of Intron Plus Ltd. demonstrate high qualification and reach experience, and we wish them great success with future developments and looking for more cooperation with this company.



Liftek

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#### pertise

شركة تمرس للمقاولات **EXPERTISE CONTRACTING CO.** س.ت ۲۰۰۹٬۰۸۹، غرفة تجارية ۱۲۰۳۸ C.R. 2055009882, C.O.C. No. 160 388 Paid up Capital: 1,000,000.00 SAR

Date: 24-Jun-17

#### TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN

Our company has contracted Intron Plus for the inspection of flare stack guy ropes, which have being in operation for over 17 years. Intron Plus previously supplied us the INTROS wire rope flaw detector.

The inspection was carried out at Kemya Kop in Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia in February 2017 and was properly prepared and successfully completed. Inspection results, obtained with the INTROS MRT equipment and Intron's methodology, combined with visual examination, enabled us to thoroughly assess the actual guy rope condition.

Specialists from Intron Plus exhibited professionalism and expertise in MRT, and were fully committed to this job. It was very easy to communicate with the Intron team who were able to overcome all of the challenges and obstacles that arose during the project.

On behalf of Expertise Contracting Company I express my gratitude to Intron and voice my satisfaction from our cooperation and I am looking forward for future ventures with Intron Plus.

This letter may be shown to any third party for the purpose of reference.



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#### **Our key customers**



### Conclusions

- Magnetic rope testing is the only practical way to non-destructively inspect guided structures, e.g. guys at flare stacks
- Non-destructive testing of guy ropes at flare stack is important mean to provide integrity of flare stacks at refineries
- Guy ropes can be non-destructively inspected at flare stacks either out or in operation



Thank you for your attention!

www.intron-plus.com

**Corporate membership** 



