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IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 111

TO: CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIFIC FLETCHER DRILL CANOPIES

**FROM: J.H. FLETCHER & CO.
RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

DATE: DECEMBER 2008

SUBJECT: CYLINDER RETAINER PIN ON DRILL CANOPY

All Fletcher roof bolters use, or can use, operator protection canopies. On some models these canopies are attached to an extendable support post actuated by a hydraulic cylinder within the post. The post is mechanically connected to the hydraulic cylinder with a round pin. The round pin is held in place by attaching the canopy, or other attachments, to the support post. If the canopy is not pinned to the post, the hydraulic cylinder pin can dislodge from its connection and fall out. This situation can occur when, or if, the round pin is not properly positioned or maintained or if a canopy is removed for some reason and reattached and the round pin is not placed into the support post and hydraulic cylinder.

Since 2003, Fletcher has made significant changes to the hydraulic cylinder and post arrangement to promote the cylinder and support post staying connected. Fletcher Information Bulletin No. 94, which was previously released, outlined these changes and requested that owners of Fletcher roof bolters notify their maintenance personnel and machine operators that they should inspect the canopy post daily to ensure it is secured to the hydraulic cylinder.

The designs discussed in Information Bulletin 94 (IB 94) have been well received within the industry.

An incident recently occurred involving one of those designs discussed in IB 94 that uses the round pin to connect the canopy cylinder to hold the canopy onto the support post. The round pin was not in place. The canopy was first raised, then lowered. The hydraulic cylinder retracted inside the support post but the support post remained in the raised position. After some time without the support of the hydraulic cylinder the canopy suddenly fell onto the operator, causing injury.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

The support post and cylinder may become disconnected if the canopy or other support post attachment is removed or if the round pin is not properly maintained. One indication of this is that the canopy may not lower immediately from an elevated position when the operator activates the canopy lower control lever, and then, after some time, the canopy may drop unexpectedly.

Anytime the canopy control lever is activated and the canopy does not lower, the operator must not remain under the canopy because it could drop unexpectedly and suddenly. The machine should be evaluated and repaired immediately by maintenance personnel.

In response to this incident, Fletcher recommends that:

1. All operators and maintenance personnel review IB 94 and this bulletin (IB 111). Review your parts books to determine what type of cylinder/support post attachment is on your machine. When you have determined the type of cylinder/support post attachment you have, instruct your maintenance personnel to confirm that the cylinder and support post are securely connected. Fletcher is available to help you determine the style that you have.
2. If you are the owner of a Fletcher machine with the design described in IB 94 that shows the round pin going through the cylinder, Fletcher has an additional update for your bolter (see Machine List in Attachment 1). The pin that goes through the cylinder rod has been modified to reduce any chance that the pin may dislodge and fall out. It is extremely important that the round pin goes through the hole in the cylinder rod. The new round pin has rubber washers on both ends. After the round pin is placed into the hole, the maintenance person must tighten down the bolts on both ends. The tightening of both screws on each end of the pin spreads out the rubber washer in the support post hole. This new design secures the connection and provides a rubber barrier that prevents contamination by dirt or other substances. These round pins can be ordered through Fletcher's Service Department (PN: 413278). Make sure that your parts department and maintenance personnel are aware of the change. Included in this bulletin is a drawing showing the correct part number of the round pin (see Attachment 2). Place a copy of the drawing in the parts book for your machine, and distribute copies to the appropriate personnel. Note: the new pin will be automatically substituted when ordering the previous pin design. Educate your maintenance personnel that anytime the canopy is removed, before reattaching it they must confirm that the cross pin that connects the cylinder rod to the support post is secured in and through the cylinder eye.
3. After the existing pin has been removed and replaced with the new pin, please **DESTROY** the old pin so that it cannot be used again. The warning tag (see Attachment 2) is part of the pin assembly and will be attached to the pin.

The new pin is available at no charge only to the owners of the machines identified by serial number in this bulletin. However, we strongly recommend that all machines be inspected to confirm, as we indicated in IB 94, that whatever system you are utilizing to hold the canopy in place, you ensure that it is secure to the support post cylinder. New machines and Fletcher modernized machines will have the new pin design we have discussed in this bulletin.

To order the new pins (one for each canopy), call the Fletcher Service Department. You will be required to disclose the serial number of the machine, the name of the machine owner, the mailing address and the location of the mine at which the machine is in use. The kit will include one pin assembly and a new parts sheet. Note: Two kits will be required for dual boom machines. Fletcher believes this retrofit should be completed on all machines identified by serial number in this bulletin.

If you no longer own this equipment, we request that you provide us the name and address of the current owner so that a copy of this important Information Bulletin can be sent. J.H. Fletcher & Co. appreciates your cooperation in retraining your employees about this important safety component and with our efforts to complete the retrofit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact David Cooper (304) 525-7811, or dcooper@jhletcher.com.

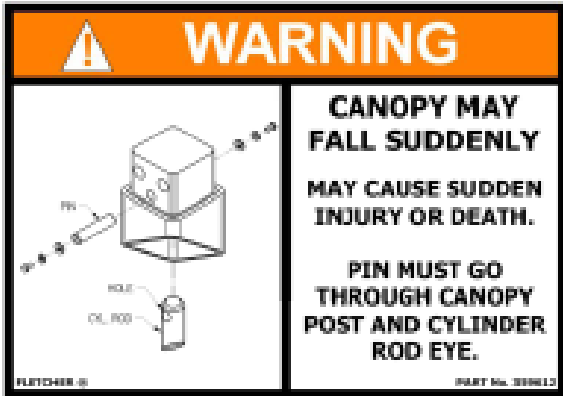
MACHINE LIST FOR INFORMATION BULLETIN 111

ATTACHMENT 1

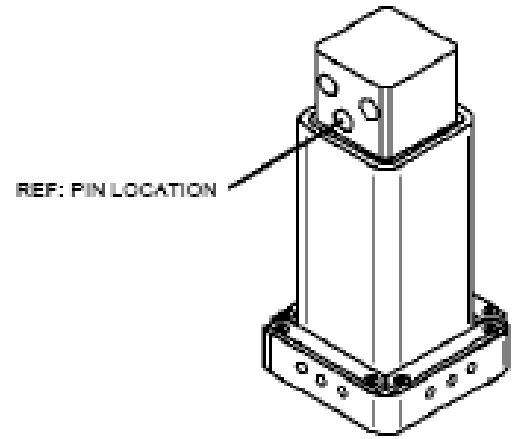
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WARNING TAG (SEE SHEET [W8-780](#))



SHEET NO.
MY-2300

TITLE
413278 SUPPORT POST RETAINING PIN ASSEMBLY

DATE
11/02/08

