

J. H. FLETCHER & CO. Box 2187 – Huntington, WV 25722-2187 – 304/525-7811 – FAX 304/525-4025

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 114

TO: OWNERS, OPERATORS AND REBUILDERS OF J.H. FLETCHER & CO. TWO-LEG HINGED CANOPY

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

DATE: JANUARY 2010

SUBJECT: DAMAGE TO TWO-LEG HINGED CANOPY

In November 2009 an accident occurred at a West Virginia mine. The information obtained by J.H. Fletcher & Co. ("Fletcher") indicates that the roof bolter operator ribbed the tram canopy while tramming the roof bolter. The operator steered the machine into the rib. The damage to the tram canopy cylinder was so severe that the cylinder eye separated from the cylinder rod (Attachment 1). When this event took place the cylinder was no longer connected to the tram canopy and the canopy fell on the operator's head. The bolter had tram canopy extensions installed.

Fletcher reminds all owners, operators and rebuilders of its equipment that steering a machine into the rib is an open and obvious hazard and that this practice should not occur. There is no reason any portion of the roof bolting machine should be run into the rib or any mine structure or other equipment during tramming. **Each operator must be properly trained and if a person collides the machine with something, he/she should be re-trained by experienced personnel.**

Anytime the machine strikes the rib or any structure or another piece of equipment the operator must stop the machine as soon as possible in a safe place. A thorough examination of the machine for damage that could alter the function of the machine must occur. This examination must include the certified systems such as the ATRS, drill canopies, and tram canopy and their components (such as the cylinders).

To attempt to prevent a collapse until a tram canopy cylinder can be repaired, in the event of damage to a tram canopy cylinder or its attachment, Fletcher has developed

“tram canopy stops” (Attachment 2). The available canopy stops are designed for a two-leg hinged type of canopy arrangement only. When placed on the canopy leg supports, the canopy stops prevent the canopy from falling all the way to the frame if the canopy support cylinder or its attachment to the canopy is broken (Attachment 3).

The canopy stops do not take the place of the certified tram canopy system. Also, by installing canopy stops, an operator is not relieved of the obligation of inspecting a machine for damage that requires it to be taken out of service. Installation of the canopy stops also does not relieve an operator of the obligation to know how to and to safely tram a machine.

The tram canopy stops are being offered only as an additional mechanism to prevent the canopy from falling all the way down to the deck frame if the canopy support cylinder or its connection to the canopy or frame become broken due to a collision with some object.

The stops in no way take the place of the cylinder or support post that is part of the original design and approval of the MSHA canopy certified system. Owners and operators of this machinery must never assume that placing the stop on the machine will enable the canopy to withstand loading without the cylinder in place. **If your machine sustains damage to the canopy or supporting mechanism, you must shut the machine down immediately until repairs are made.**

What we recommend you do;

1. Evaluate the history of your roof bolters and determine if you have replaced the tram canopy cylinder before. This may be an indication that you need to install the canopy stop.
2. Contact Fletcher’s Service Department or your local Fletcher authorized distributor to order the stop (part no. 422007). Provide the serial number of the machine(s) for which you are ordering the stops and you will be given a quote for the stop(s) for your specific machine(s).
3. Your machine will be equipped with either a hydraulic cylinder or a manual adjust post. If your machine is equipped with a hydraulic cylinder, when you receive the stops it will be necessary to change the hydraulic circuit. Fletcher requires that you change the tram canopy cylinder hydraulics so that when it is activated it is gravity feed down only. Pressure down of the tram canopy cylinder could cause damage to the canopy, hydraulic cylinder, or tram canopy stop.

4. Post, share and discuss this bulletin with your operators. Instruct your operators of the correct installation, use, function and limitations of the tram canopy stops. Remind operators that even if canopy stops are in use, a broken machine (canopy, cylinder or component) cannot be used.
5. Ensure all operators are properly trained in tramming. In particular, to maintain a clear line of vision during tramming and perform a proper environmental scan prior to turning a machine on for tramming.
6. Discuss with your operators if ribbing the roof bolter is a frequent occurrence. Determine the reasons, as this should not occur.
7. When the stops are installed on your machine(s), complete the form (Attachment 4) and return it to Fletcher. When we receive the form we will send you a new hydraulic print for your machine.

The Fletcher Safety Committee has determined that there exists a likelihood that an operator would consider this device to be adequate to meet the canopy load criteria without the support cylinder in place. Therefore, this additional mechanism is not mandatory and will not be a standard feature on new and rebuild machines manufactured by Fletcher.

If you have any questions regarding this Information Bulletin or any other safety issue, please call the Risk Management Department at (304) 525-7811, ext. 240, or email at dcooper@jhletcher.com.

ATTACHMENT 1

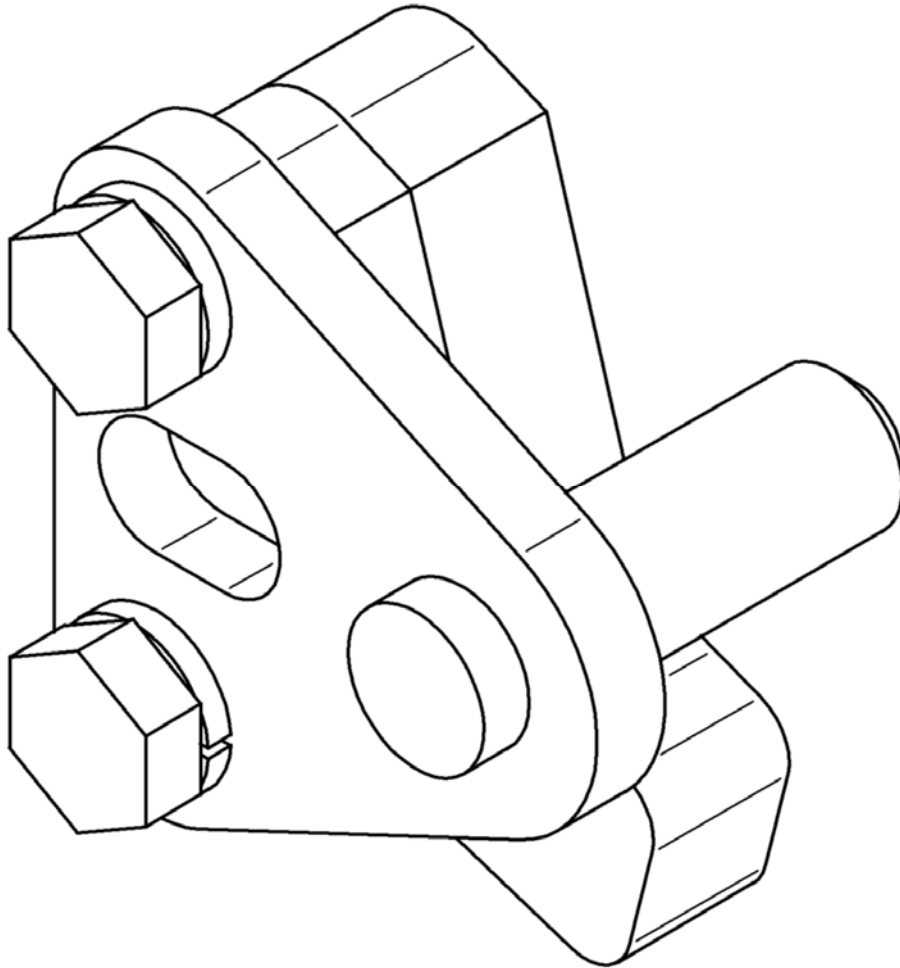


CYLINDER EYE



CYLINDER SEPARATED FROM EYE

ATTACHMENT 2



CANOPY STOP

**STOP AS SHOWN ON
SUPPORT POST**

ATTACHMENT 3



