

**Date:** 1 October 2015

DMS 0054-8182

**Re:** Risk relating to the use of service lifts

**Affected turbines:** All turbines / towers with service lifts equipped with Tractel Blocstop™ fall arrest device

<b>Risk originates from:</b>	<b>Components</b>	<i>Turbine SW or functional safety</i>		<b>Work processes, methods or design</b>		
<b>Affects activity in the field:</b>	Warehouse/Office✓	Transport✓	Construction✓	WTG Operation✓	Service✓	Offshore✓

**History of this document**

Rev. no.	Date	Description of changes
0	1 Oct. 2015	First edition

**What to do relating to affected activities based on this information?**



**Do NOT use service lifts with Tractel Blocstop™ type BSO fall arrest device as they can have a hidden defect.**

- **Until further notice service lifts with Tractel Blocstop™ type BSO fall arrest device cannot be used.**
- **Avanti service lifts type Dolphin with Tractel Blocstop™ type OSL/ASL fall arrest devices can be used provided that prior to the first use after the release of this Safety Alert the devices are inspected according to Vestas' instructions and a pull test has been performed as specified by Avanti.**

**Background:**

The service lift in the tower is used for transport of personnel, tools and equipment. On each intermediate platform in the tower, the lift shaft is guarded by a gallery. The lift is equipped with a manual emergency stop, and additionally an automatic safety stop, which is activated by the bottom trip bar installed under the lift. Different types of service lifts are used in Vestas wind turbines, but the principle is the same.

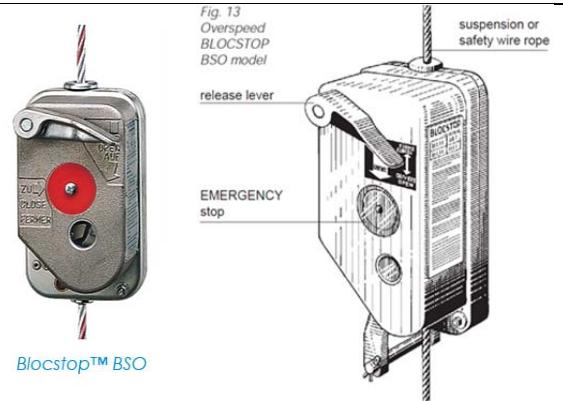
The Blocstop™ system has two functions - one is to manually brake the hoist, the other is to automatically stop the hoist in case of overspeed. The defect found prevents the correct functionality of the overspeed guard.

**Finding and Risk**

We have received information that a Tractel Blocstop™ fall arrest device, type BSO, has been found defective in a service lift. The defect was detected in connection with the full disassembly of the Tractel Blocstop™ unit. The defect was hidden and thus not detected in connection with the normal inspection.

In addition we have received information about a major accident which occurred on 28 September 2015 in Germany in a Südwind S77 turbine on a 100 m tubular tower. The accident occurred while operating an Avanti service lift, type LIFT2000. For still unknown reasons the Avanti service lift crashed. This event caused the death of one person and seriously injured another person. At the moment we have no facts about the cause of and the circumstances leading to the incident. Avanti has informed us that they have supplied a LIFT 2000 service lift with Tractel Blocstop™ BSO for installation in the affected turbine.

Until further information is available, and until the possible population at risk has been identified, we see the need for implementing a total stop of the use of service lifts equipped with Tractel Blocstop™ type BSO fall arrest devices.



**Next information to be expected: *Within a few days when more facts are available.***

Kind regards  
Vestas Wind Systems A/S, Technology & Service Solutions

Attachment: **Reference to Dolphin service lift manual – annual inspection/pull test of fall arrest device**

**For further information:** Vestas hired personnel - contact your Manager and/or Safety Officer. **Customers and other stakeholders** - please contact your normal point of contact within Vestas.

**Vestas Confidential and Proprietary Information**

The information contained in this document constitutes internal safety communication issued by Vestas Wind Systems to its service personnel. The sole purpose of this document is to increase work safety and/or lower the risk of incidents to turbines in connection with potentially dangerous situations. This information can be shared with other stakeholders who could be affected by the risk identified.

**Attachment to SA147.R0**

The Dolphin service lift manual is available at the website of the company Avanti.

The annual inspection of the fall arrest device and the so-called pull test are described in section 6.4.3.c (page 36).

Link to the website of Avanti: <http://www.avanti-online.com/en/manuals/service-lift/>

**6.4.3 Fall arrest device**

The fall arrest device is largely maintenance free. Clean only when very dirty. Keep free from dirt and lubricate often. Using too much oil will not harm the equipment or the gripping function.

Annual test (only by authorized persons):

- a) Test the fall arrest device stop lever by pulling down the red locking knob.
- b) Test the fall arrest device stop lever reset, by pulling down the black unlocking knob.
- c) Release safety wire rope bottom attachment in the tower and pull the safety wire rope with a jerk. The overspeed device should trigger the fall arrest device automatically.
- d) Ensure that no visual defects have appeared

**Original instructions**

**AVANTI SERVICE LIFT**  
User's, Maintenance and Installation Manual  
Model Service Lift DOLPHIN

**Vestas**