



# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

## IMPORTANT PRODUCT INFORMATION

### Instructions for Inspection of Upper Suspension Brackets and Replacement of Upper Suspension Bolts & Nuts on Lodestar Hoists

It has come to the attention of Columbus McKinnon that there is confusion with regard to inspecting upper suspension brackets and with regard to replacing upper suspension bolts and nuts on our Lodestar Hoists. This technical bulletin is intended to provide our recommendations for both the upper suspension bracket inspection and replacement of the upper suspension bolts and nuts. Note that Columbus McKinnon will also be updating our Lodestar O&M Manuals to include these recommendations to avoid future confusion regarding this inspection and replacement.

The ANSI/ASME B30.16 Safety Standard for Overhead Hoists specifies that a periodic inspection be performed at least annually on a hoist in normal service, semi-annually on a hoist in heavy service or quarterly on a hoist in severe service. Part of this periodic inspection is to inspect the hoist's suspension housings for cracks or distortion and to inspect the hoist for loose or damaged bolts. Therefore, in order to comply with these requirements, the upper suspension bracket and the upper suspension bolts on our Lodestar hoists should be inspected as specified in this standard.

With respect to the **upper suspension bracket inspection**, CMCO recommends replacing any brackets found to be cracked or distorted. However, we would recommend that brackets with minor thread marking from the suspension bolts do not need to be replaced since minor marking does not indicate that sufficient misalignment exists to damage the suspension bolt or the suspension casting. As indicated in our O&M manual, as long as the bracket alignment allows the upper suspension bolt to be started by hand there should be no issues with alignment even if minor thread marking occurs on the upper suspension bracket.

With respect to **replacing the upper suspension bolts**, these bolts are provided with a thread locking patch to ensure that these bolts do not work loose during operation. The bolt manufacturer recommends these bolts be replaced each time they are removed and CMCO agrees with this recommendation. Replacing these bolts each time they are removed will ensure that the thread locking patch properly retains the bolt.

With respect to **proper bolt installation**, as indicated in our O&M manuals these upper suspension bolts should be started by hand to ensure proper alignment and thread engagement. Once the bolt is run in a few turns by hand, a tool can be used to apply the proper torque. Our O&M manuals provide a recommended torque range for these bolts. However, in practice we have found that when installing both a new bolt with a thread locking patch and a new thread locking nut, it may be necessary to use a torque 3-5 foot-pounds above the recommended minimum to properly tighten the suspension bolt.

With respect to the **upper suspension bolt and nut locking systems**, either locking system is sufficient for securing this bolt. Therefore, it is not necessary to replace the nylon thread locking nuts each time the suspension bolts are replaced as long as new bolts with the thread locking patch are being used. However, CMCO recommends these nylon thread locking nuts be replaced each time the hoist is torn down to allow these nuts to be replaced.

These recommendations apply to all of our **Industrial and Entertainment Lodestars** of all capacities. CMCO requests that this information be shared with your service personnel and with your

end user customers to ensure that the personnel who may be performing inspections on these hoists or servicing these hoists receive these recommendations.

Thank you for your continued support of CMCO products.

**Allen Huffman**  
**Quality Assurance Manager**  
**CMCO Damascus Operations**

Phone: 276-475-1310

Email: [allen.huffman@cmworks.com](mailto:allen.huffman@cmworks.com)



Follow us

[www.cmworks.com](http://www.cmworks.com)

[Contact us](#)

[Click here to forward this email to an associate](#)

This announcement is intended for the U.S. and Canadian markets only.  
For markets outside the U.S. and Canada, please contact your local Columbus McKinnon representative.

140 John James Audubon Parkway, Amherst, NY 14228  
Phone: 800.888.0985 • 716.689.5400 • Fax: 716.689.5644  
Canadian Phone: 877.264.6478 • Canadian Fax: 877.264.6477  
© 2014 Columbus McKinnon Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

If you do not wish to receive future e-mail, [click here](#).