PRODUCT BULLETIN NUMBER: 48

CANRIG DRILLING TECHNOLOGY LTD

DATE: April 8, 1999

SUBJECT: Rotating Top Drive with Weight in Elevators

SERIAL NUMBERS: 2 and Up

DISCUSSION: When weight is suspended in the elevators, the Rotary Manifold assembly (pipe handler) is designed to drop down approximately 1/8"-1/4" so that the entire string weight is supported internally by a sleeve (inner bearing race) around the main shaft. Subsequently, when the electric motor or torque boost is used to rotate the Top Drive, the bearing race moves in respect to the stationary rotary manifold. This can cause substantial damage to the weight supporting members inside the rotary manifold assembly. The grinding of one member against another will cause metal flakes to accumulate in the bottom end and has the possibility of damaging the oil seals. Rotating in this condition for an extended period of time may also cause severe overheating which could damage the lower oil seals and the integrity of the load bearing components.

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Top Drive should never be rotated with the electric motor or torque boost when there is weight suspended in the elevators.
- The pipe handler assembly may be rotated, if needed, with weight suspended in the elevators but the Top Drive brakes must not be engaged.

INFORMATION:

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