Zurich Tagging System

Managing statutory equipment can be difficult and needs tight control to avoid potential issues when equipment is used beyond its statutory inspection due date. One way to control the use of equipment is to physically mark or 'colour code' when it has been examined and is safe to use.

Colour coding is used in many different ways to distinguish different things, e.g., electrical components to signify polarity, gas cylinders to signify the type of gas and for a risk management business like Zurich Engineering to help customers identify equipment safe to use.

Whilst colour coding can be a cost effective method of indicating the suitability of the equipment for further use, there are other options available for the control of equipment.

Discussion

There are basically two issues of interest:

1) Controlling equipment to minimise misplacement.

2) Identifying equipment suitable for further use.

And there are typically two methods of controlling equipment either manual tagging/coding or electronic tagging systems.

The retail industry use Electronic Article Surveillance for the control of stock. Electronic tagging can range from passive, relatively low cost systems up to intelligent systems which can reproduce details of the life and limits of the equipment.

Zurich are able to offer a number of options depending on the customers needs. The options range from the use of coloured cable ties/tags, coding boards, stickers and RFID (radio frequency identification).

1 Coloured plastic cable ties or stickers

Zurich offer a range of eight coloured ties or stickers used to indicate whether the item is in-date. By using eight colours it allows the status of items examined at two frequencies (6 & 12 monthly) to be uniquely identified over a four year period, for example:

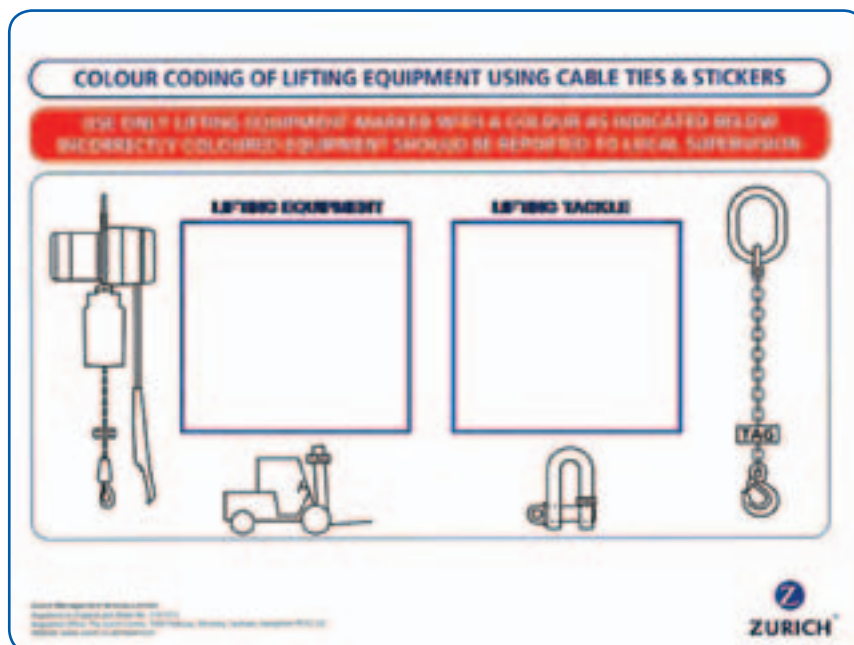|	6-monthly items 'current' colour	12-monthly items 'current' colour
1st half, year 1	Dark-blue	Orange
2nd half, year 1	Yellow	Orange
1st half, year 2	Grey	Green
2nd half, year 2	Brown	Green
1st half, year 3	Light-blue	Yellow
2nd half, year 3	Orange	Yellow
1st half, year 4	Green	Brown
2nd half, year 4	Purple	Brown
1st half, year 5	Dark-blue (repeat sequence)	Orange (repeat sequence)

Note: There is also a 'FAILED' sticker.

Stickers are 50 x 80mm.

2 Status cards

Status cards are used in conjunction with the coloured cable ties and/or stickers and indicate the status of the respective items according to the colour of the tie/sticker.

Status cards have two windows: one indicating the 'current' colour for lifting accessories (tackle) and other items subject to a 6-monthly examination frequency and one indicating the 'current' colour for other items subject to annual examination.
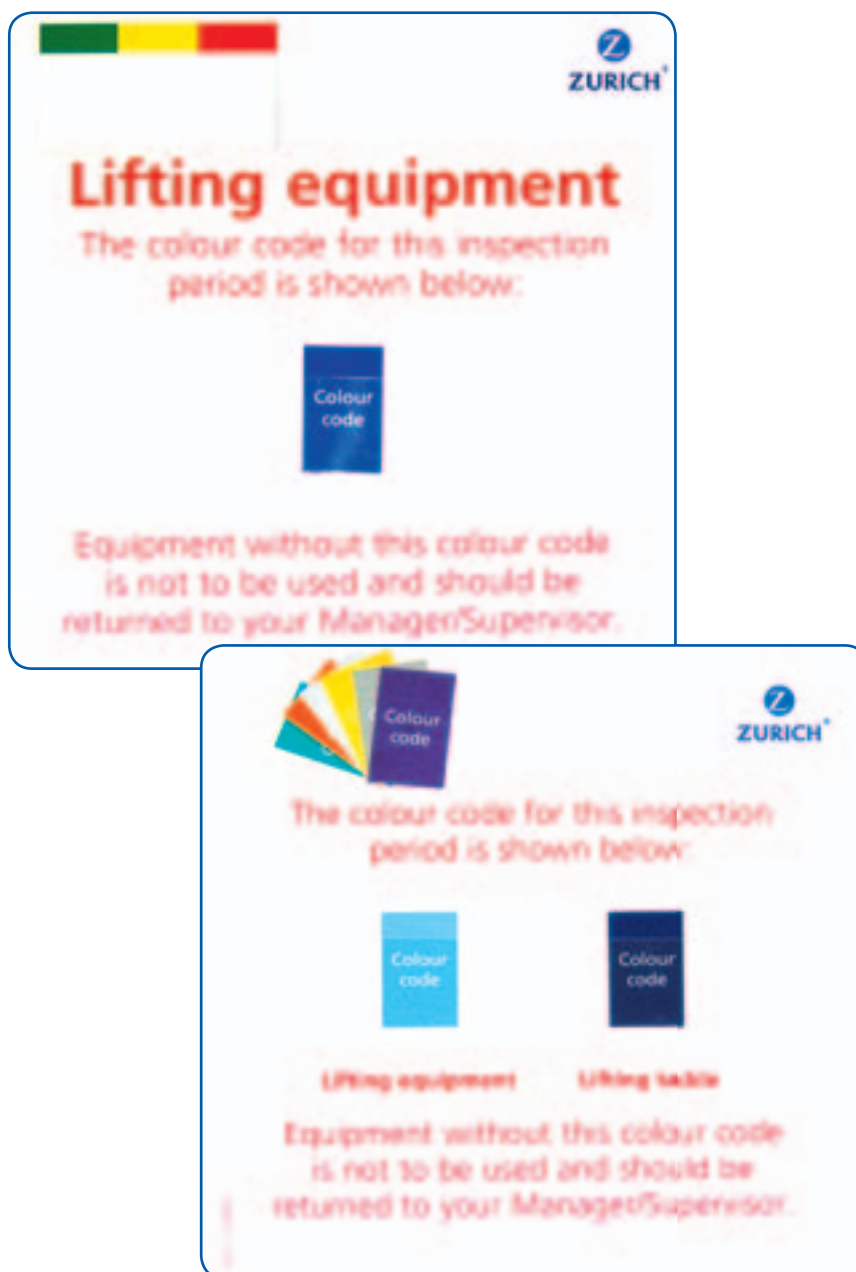
Size: A4

3 Status boards – Single or two colour

Status boards are used in conjunction with the coloured cable ties and/or stickers and indicate the status of the respective items according to the colour of the tie/sticker.

Size: 430mm x 440mm

4 ID tags

There are 2 types of ID tag:

- **'Dated'** – has a chart on the back for the Engineer Surveyor to indicate when examination of the respective item is next due.

- Also available a red 'Do not use' tag.

5 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

- RFID tags provide significant benefits over standard tags and barcodes.

- Line of sight not required to read the tag.

- Can be read through material such as wood, metal and multiple layers of paint.

- Robust and durable; suitable for wet, dirty, dusty, conditions.

- Resistant to high and low temperature.

Tags can be attached by tie wraps or self adhesive.

6 Quarantine bins

Quarantine bins are used to temporarily store (and lock away, if necessary) non-inspected, damaged or missed items.

The **SMALL BINS** have a capacity of about 65 litres and are approximately 600mm x 400mm x 365mm in size.

Large quarantine bin

The large bins have a capacity of about 670 litres and are approximately 1200mm x 1000mm x 915mm in size and have wheels, though they are also designed to be lifted/moved using a fork truck. The large bins are designed to be used with a payload of up to about 500Kg.

For more information on Zurich's tagging systems please contact your Engineer Surveyor or telephone

0121 697 9260

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