



Work Safety Alert

Struck by a Metal Bracket under Lifting

- 1. Date of Accident :** December 2017
- 2. Place of Accident :** A construction site
- 3. Summary :**

A metal bracket while being raised by a tower crane displaced and hit against a worker who assisted in the lifting operation. The worker sustained serious head injury and passed away on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Owners/ Contractors/ Employers:

To safeguard any person from being endangered by the slipping or displacement of any loads being raised or lowered by a crane, the crane owner/ contractor/ employer should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the lifting operation, taking into account the size, shape, weight and centre of gravity of the loads and the slinging/rigging method, with particular attention paid to any unintended movement of the loads to be lifted;
- formulating a lifting plan with due consideration to the results of the risk assessment, including the selection of suitable crane/ lifting gears, equipment as well as engagement of competent lifting personnel and workers;
- appointing a competent and experienced lifting supervisor to oversee the lifting operation to ensure that all risks are effectively managed;
- ensuring that the loads are safely secured to prevent slipping and displacement during the lifting operation;



- ensuring that all the workers who direct, rig and handle the loads have been properly trained in the principles of slinging and rigging, and are capable of selecting lifting gear as well as using slinging/rigging method suitable for the loads to be lifted;
- providing designed lifting points for specific loads as far as reasonably practicable; otherwise, ensuring the balance of the loads throughout the lifting process by duly assessing the position of the centre of gravity of each load and properly positioned the supporting hook directly above it;
- providing a tag line or control rope for control of any undue swing or rotation of the loads where necessary;
- demarcating and properly barricading a zone for the lifting operation and practicing strict access control measures with suitable warning notices posted in the vicinity to block unauthorised entry into the zone when lifting operation is in progress;
- ensuring that the crane has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person before putting into use;
- ensuring that every chain, rope or other lifting gear to be used for lifting is tested, thoroughly examined and certified safe by a competent examiner, and a valid certificate in the approved form in which the competent examiner has made a statement to the effect that it is in safe working order has been obtained;
- ensuring that the crane is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to the type of the crane; and that a signaller is appointed where the crane operator does not have a clear and unrestricted view of the loads and its vicinity;
- providing each worker/ employee who is at work on the site with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensure the proper wearing of the same by each of them while remaining on the site;



- providing crane operator and workers/ employees involved in the lifting operation with adequate information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all the above safety measures.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes](#)¹

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

¹ Click to view document