



Work Safety Alert
Struck by Machine Component
being Stowed into a Container Truck Compartment by
a Fork-lift Truck

1. **Date of Accident :** April 2019

2. **Place of Accident :** A Warehouse

3. **Summary :**

A worker while staying inside a container to assist in the stowing of a machine component into the container by a fork-lift truck, was suspected to have been struck by the machine component. The worker was sent to hospital and passed away on the same day.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :**

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in material handling by means of loadshifting machinery, e.g. fork-lift trucks, the proprietor/ 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 operation of the loadshifting machinery, taking into account the size, shape and weight of the loads to be transported; the selection, provision and use of loadshifting machinery and equipment; the working environment and condition for the operation; and the training and competency of personnel (particularly the loadshifting machinery operator) carrying out the work;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for material handling with due regard to the results of risk assessments with the consideration of the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;



- setting up restricted or prohibited areas for preventing unauthorized entry into the operating areas of the loadshifting machinery such as suitably fencing off the public access areas from the restricted or prohibited areas and posting warning notices for alerting pedestrians and workers;
- ensuring that the loadshifting machinery is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to that type of the machine;
- providing a signaller to guide the operator where there are “blind spots” or there is no clear vision for operating the loadshifting machinery;
- ensuring adequate, appropriate and effective communication between the operator and signaller; and ensuring no person including the signaller would enter the machine operating areas especially for a restrictive area such as inside a container or truck compartment;
- ensuring that every worker/employee involved in the material handling is wearing a high visibility or reflective jacket so that they could easily be seen;
- providing the operators, signaller and workers/ employees involved in the material handling work with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Loadshifting Machinery\) Regulation](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes for Safe Use of Fork-lift Trucks](#)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.

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