



Work Safety Alert

Struck by an Excavator

1. Date of Accident : October 2017

2. Place of Accident : A construction site

3. Summary :

A worker was suspected to have been struck by an excavator on the berm of a slope where excavation work was being carried out. He sustained seriously bodily injuries and passed away on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered by a loadshifting machine (“machine”) for earth moving operation such as an excavator, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct a task-specific risk assessment to identify all potential hazards associated with the earth moving operation, taking into account all relevant factors including the movement of the machine as well as other moving plant nearby and the environment in the vicinity;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for operating the machine with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- fencing off the operating zone of the machine as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and adopting control measures to prevent any unauthorized entry into the fenced off area;



- assigning a banksman to give signal to the operator if the machine needs to be operated in special circumstances such as in a congested work environment or close to nearby fixture. Attention should be drawn to the working position of the banksman to avoid his being endangered by the movement of any machine/ plant operating in the vicinity;
- providing personal protective equipment such as reflective vests or other devices for the banksmen and other persons assisting in the earth moving operation such that they could be easily seen by operators of any machine/ plant in the vicinity;
- ensuring that the machine has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person before it is put into operation;
- ensuring that the machine has sufficient visibility at the operator's seat to allow its safe operation. Aids such as mirrors, ultrasonic and TV devices, etc. should be available to remedy inadequate direct view;
- ensuring that the machine is only operated by a person who holds a valid relevant certificate and is able to operate the machine safely by virtue of his experience and competence;
- providing each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a Y-type chin strap and ensure the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee throughout the work;
- providing machine operators and workers/ employees involved in the earth moving 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 on Safe Use of Excavators](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Loadshifting Machines for Earth Moving Operations on Construction Sites](#)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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