



Work Safety Alert Struck by an I-Beam Structure

1. **Date of Accident :** February 2014
2. **Place of Accident :** A building construction site
3. **Summary :**

A chain sling of two single-legs fractured while being used to raise an I-beam structure with the use of a mobile crane. A worker involved in the lifting operation was struck to his death by the falling I-beam.

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

To prevent workers from being struck by objects during lifting operations with the use of cranes, contractors/ employers responsible for the lifting operations and the relevant sites should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct job specific risk assessments and prepare a lifting plan with due regard to the selection, positioning and operation of the crane, the slinging method and the work environment;
- formulate and implement an effective safe system of work which should include the following:
 - appointing a responsible person for the overall control of the lifting operation;
 - establishing a danger zone for the lifting operation and exercising strict access control measures with suitable warning notices in place to avoid unauthorized man-entry into the zone especially when the load is being raised, lowered and traversed off the ground;



- ensuring that every chain, rope or other lifting gear to be used is tested, thoroughly examined and certified safe by a competent examiner;
 - adopting a suitable slinging method for handling a load, with due regard to the weight, shape and nature of the load as well as the conditions of the danger zone;
 - implementing measures to prevent the swing or rotation of the load while lifting;
 - stationing a signaller to give effective signals to the crane operator who does not have a clear and unrestricted view of the vicinity; and
 - ensuring that an effective communication system, among all personnel involved in the lifting operation, is in place before the commencement of the lifting operation;
- provide crane operators and workers with adequate information, training and instruction in respect of the safe system of work for lifting operations; and
 - implement effective monitoring and supervision to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes¹](#)

¹ Click to view the document



職業安全及健康部
Occupational Safety and Health Branch
勞工處
Labour Department



- [《地盤意外個案簡析系列 – 流動式起重機》¹](#)(Chinese Version Only)

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.