



Work Safety Alert Crush by Quayside Gantry Crane

1. **Date of Accident :** May 2014
2. **Place of Accident :** A container terminal
3. **Summary :**

A worker was crushed to death by a quayside gantry crane when applying lubrication oil to the wheels of the crane.

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

To prevent workers from being struck by gantry crane during crane maintenance work, the contractors/employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct a task-specific risk assessment with due regard to the crane maintenance work involved, the yard layout and work environment;
- formulate and implement an effective safe system of work such as a permit-to-work system for crane maintenance work to eliminate all associated work hazards including the hazard of being struck by the crane under maintenance;
- take appropriate steps such as turning off and locking out the power supply of the crane to ensure that the crane under maintenance remains in a state of dead stop before the commencement of any maintenance work;
- formulate strict access control measures to avoid unauthorized entry of persons or vehicles into the operating zone of the gantry crane;
- ensure that an effective communication system, among all the personnel involved, such as the workers performing the crane maintenance work, the crane operators as well as the supervisory personnel, is put in place;



- ensure that every worker on the yard is wearing a high visibility or reflective vest so that the worker could be easily discernible by crane operators;
- install and properly maintain suitable safety devices on the gantry crane, such as closed-circuit televisions to enhance the crane operator’s views (especially over the rear and other blind spots) and equip the crane with audio/visual alarms to alert persons working nearby for any of its motion;
- provide relevant safety training, adequate information, instruction and supervision to the involved personnel such as maintenance workers, crane operators and the supervisory personnel; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Cargo and Container Handling\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Code of Practice on Mechanical Handling Safety in Container Yards](#)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.

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