



Work Safety Alert

Struck by the Counterweight of a Lift

1. **Date of Accident :** March 2015
2. **Place of Accident :** A building renovation site

3. **Summary :**

A worker was struck to his death by a counterweight of a disused lift while the lift shaft wall enclosing it was being dismantled.

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

To ensure the safety of workers engaged in lift dismantling work including the demolition of lift shaft, the 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 task-specific risk assessments;
- formulating detailed method statement with appropriate safe working procedures and safety measures based on the results of the risk assessments, and in line with the relevant codes of practice, industry guidelines, international standards and in conformity with manufacturer's specifications/instructions;
- developing and implementing a permit-to-work system to ensure that all necessary safety precautions have been taken before commencement of work and remain to be effective. Among others, the following safety precautions should be strictly adhered to:



- the counterweight of the lift is set at the lowest level of the lift pit, and should be securely and adequately supported to prevent accidental displacement throughout the dismantling work;
 - all necessary precautionary measures are taken to prevent the fall of any parts/components thereof; and
 - suitable and sufficient safety signs/warning notices are displayed at prominent positions to alert all workers involved of the essential safety information;
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- ensuring clear delineation of safety responsibilities and effective coordination and communication among the principal contractor, subcontractor(s), including specialist sub-contractor(s) for full implementation of the required safe system of work;
 - ensuring that the dismantling work is conducted safely under the direct supervision of a person who is competent by virtue of his substantial training and practical experience in relation to lift dismantling;
 - ensuring that only competent workers possessing adequate knowledge, skills and experience specific to lift dismantling are employed for the dismantling work;
 - providing the workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training specific to the task to ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures and safety measures; and
 - establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Code of Practice for Safety at Work \(Lift and Escalator\)](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)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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