



## Work Safety Alert Being Trapped by the Grab of a Grab Loader

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** A road maintenance works depot
3. **Summary :**

A grab loader operator was found staying unconsciously near the grab control panel of a grab loader with his head trapped by the grab. He was certified dead in the hospital on the same day.

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

To ensure the safe use of the grab of a grab loader, the owner of the grab loader/ contractor/ 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 in identifying all hazards associated with the operation of the grab, taking into account the size, type and weight of the loads, the capacity of the grab and the working environment nearby;
- formulating appropriate safe work methods and procedures for grab operation by making reference to the results of risk assessments;
- appointing a competent and experienced supervisor to ensure that all risks associated with the grab operation are effectively managed;
- ensuring that the grab has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner prior to operation and regularly inspected by a competent person in accordance with the requirements of the relevant safety legislation;



- ensuring that the operator and any other persons who are involved in the grab operation stay away from the path of the hydraulic boom/ the suspending grab of the grab loader as far as possible;
- ensuring that every lever, handle or other devices for operating the grab are clearly marked to indicate their purposes and modes of operation;
- demarcating and barricading a danger zone for the operation and practising strict access control with suitable warning notices posted in the vicinity to block unauthorised entry into the zone;
- ensuring that the grab is only operated by a person who holds a valid relevant certificate;
- providing the operator and the workers/ employees involved with the necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures for the work; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear](#)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document



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**DISCLAIMER**

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Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.