



## **Work Safety Alert** **Fall from Height while Conducting Electrical Wiring Work**

- 1. Date of Accident :** June 2016
- 2. Place of Accident :** A container terminal
- 3. Summary :**

A worker while conducting electrical wiring work at height inside the body of a quay crane fell about 6m to a landing place of a fixed metal ladder and sustained fatal injury.

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

To ensure the safety and health of workers engaged in electrical work at height, the contractors/ employers responsible for the work 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 and comprehensive risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the electrical wiring work, taking into account the nature of operation and the working environment;
- formulating appropriate safe work methods and procedures with due regard to the results of risk assessments, including the adoption of a permit-to-work system for electrical work;
- ensuring that all live parts of any electrical system in the vicinity are rendered dead by isolating the power source;



- locking off the power source by using the integral lock of the switch or switchboard or by using separate padlock together with appropriate warning notices displayed. The key of the lock should be securely kept and controlled by the worker/ employee who is undertaking the electrical work;
- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- providing suitable and sufficient working platforms for safe work at height;
- where provision of a working platform is impracticable, providing every worker/ employee engaged in the work with a suitable safety harness that is continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system; and ensuring the proper use of them by the workers/ employees throughout the work;
- ensuring that every part of the workplace is sufficiently and suitably lit;
- adopting effective measures to ensure the place of work is adequately ventilated with fresh air;
- providing and ensuring the use of suitable personal protective equipment, such as insulating gloves by the workers/ employees engaged in electrical work;
- providing each worker/ employee employed at the workplace with a suitable safety helmet with a chin strap and take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper wearing of such equipment by the worker/ employee;
- appointing Registered Electrical Worker(s) (“REW(s)”) to conduct the electrical work as far as practicable and under no circumstances should a non-REW be allowed to carry out the electrical work unless he is under the supervision of a REW ;
- providing necessary safety information, instruction and training to all workers/ employees involved in the work and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures before assigning them tasks; and



- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring system to ensure the above safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes for the Safe Isolation of Electricity Source at Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Lighting Assessment in the Workplace](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes on Ventilation and Maintenance of Ventilation Systems](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)<sup>1</sup>

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### 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.

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