



Systemic Safety Alert **Gate Work**

Major systemic safety problems

In recent years, there have been a number of accidents related to gate operations or gate-related work, resulting in serious injuries or even death of workers/ employees. If gates are not properly installed, inspected, maintained or repaired, serious or even fatal accidents may occur while workers/ employees performing gate operations or gate-related work. The following are the major systemic safety problems attributed to the occurrence of accidents:

- failure to conduct task-specific risk assessments, formulate safe operation methods and clearly specify the safe work procedures;
- failure to develop and implement safety measures for the work;
- failure to properly maintain the gate in safe condition such as improper installation and poor maintenance of the gate components and safety devices;
- lack of regular inspection programme and comprehensive system for maintenance and reporting of damages; and
- failure to provide the necessary safety information, instructions, training and supervision to all workers/ employees involved.

Accident prevention measures

Registered Safety Officers (RSOs) should advise their employers/ clients to:

- (i) appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work involved different types of gates, taking into account the design and construction of the gate, the operation, the ground conditions and the working environment;
- (ii) devise and fully implement the corresponding risk control measures for the gate



operation, inspection, maintenance or repair work with due regard to the results of risk assessments and gate manufacturer's specifications/ manuals, including but not limited to the following:

- ensuring that the gate is of good mechanical construction, with gate components and safety devices well-functioning, correctly installed and properly maintained;
 - formulating safe work methods and procedures for the gate operations or gate-related work;
 - devising a system for workers/ employees to report gate irregularities found during the course of normal work to their supervisors to facilitate follow-up action;
 - designing a checklist for trained and competent personnel to conduct regular safety inspection of gates and make immediate repairs as required in accordance with the inspection findings;
 - setting up a regular gate maintenance system for competent technical personnel to perform maintenance and repairs of gates;
 - inspecting regularly the components that secure the hinges of the swing gate onto the concrete structure and check the concrete surface for any sign of loosening;
 - checking regularly the condition and levelling of the floor track and remove any debris left in it; and
 - when dismantling or reinstalling a gate, using suitable devices to keep it in place and transport it.
- (iii) provide all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- (iv) establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly implemented, followed and maintained.



Registered Safety Auditors (RSAs) should take into account these systemic safety problems and accident prevention measures in executing safety audit functions.

DISCLAIMER

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