



Work Safety Alert **Trapped by Lift Car inside Lift Shaft**

1. **Date of Accident :** July 2025
2. **Place of Accident :** A building site
3. **Summary :**

While two workers were engaged in lift work inside a common lift shaft of a building under construction, one of the lift cars suddenly descended and trapped one of the workers who was working underneath. He was certified dead later in hospital on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers from being trapped by a lift car while engaged in lift work inside the lift shaft, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work, including the precautionary measures as follows:

- implementing a permit-to-work system to ensure that all hazards associated with the lift work are eliminated before allowing any worker to enter the lift shaft/ pit for work. To prevent any unintended lift car movement, among others, the following safety precautions should be taken:
 - the car top control station and all safety devices in the lift shaft/ pit, including the emergency stop switches and manual control mode switches, should be suitably tested for their effectiveness and proper functioning before the commencement of any work;
 - if any person needs to enter the lift shaft/ pit for work via landing, the emergency stop button located near the landing door at the lowest floor or the car stopping device located at the car top should be depressed to halt the movement of lift car;



- the main power supply to the lift should be turned off, tagged and locked out;
 - warning notices should be displayed at both the lift pit entrance and the lift machine room indicating that work is in progress at the lift shaft/ pit; and
 - adequate and appropriate communication means/ equipment such as mobile phones or walkie-talkies should be provided to all parties involved in the lift work to maintain effective communication;
- ensuring that the lift work is well-planned and coordinated to avoid incompatible activities being performed at the same time;
 - ensuring that the lift work is conducted safely under the immediate supervision of a qualified person who is competent by virtue of his substantial training and practical experience in relation to the relevant work;
 - ensuring that only competent lift workers possessing adequate knowledge, skills and experience are employed to carry out the lift work;
 - setting up and implementing an effective monitoring and control system for the lift work; and
 - providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and the relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹ :

- [Code of Practice for Safety at Work \(Lift and Escalator\)](#)
- [Code of Practice for Lift Works and Escalator Works](#)

¹ Click to view documents



- [Guidebook for Responsible Persons for Lifts](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents in Lift Installation, Maintenance and Repairing Work](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

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.