



Work Safety Alert Struck by a Metal Block

1. **Date of Accident :** December 2023

2. **Place of Accident :** A factory

3. **Summary :**

While a worker was conducting welding work in a factory with the aid of a metal block under suspension by a gantry crane, the crane was struck by another gantry crane, causing the metal block to hit the worker. The worker sustained head and neck injuries, and passed away dozens of days later.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Owners/ Proprietors/ Employers :**

To safeguard any person from being struck by any object being raised/ lowered/ suspended by a lifting appliance, such as a gantry crane, the lifting appliance owners / proprietors/ 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 to identify all potential hazards associated with the lifting operation, taking into account all relevant factors including the working environment, with particular attention paid to any movement of the lifting appliance and other lifting appliance nearby as well as workers/ employees working in the vicinity;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the operation of the lifting appliance with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation, relevant codes of practice and safety guidelines;
- taking the following special precautions where the lifting operation is to



be carried out in the close vicinity of another lifting appliance:

- devising/ implementing a lifting plan with due consideration to the operation in the vicinity of another lifting appliance for preventing any collision of lifting appliances;
 - appointing a competent and experienced lifting supervisor to oversee the lifting operation in accordance with the lifting plan;
 - providing an anti-collision system/ device to detect any nearby objects to ensure that the lifting appliance will stop its motions well before collision; and
 - ensuring that adequate clearances are kept with extreme care exercised in the lifting operation while it is in the vicinity of another lifting appliance/ any person;
- fencing off the operating zone of the lifting appliance as far as reasonably practicable with suitable warning notices displayed and adopting control measures to prevent any unauthorized entry into the fenced off area;
 - ensuring that each lifting appliance is only operated by a person who holds a valid relevant certificate where applicable and who is able to operate the plant safely by virtue of his experience and competence;
 - appointing a signaller to give effective signals to the lifting appliance operators who do not have a clear and unrestricted view of its vicinity;
 - providing all workers/ employees involved with adequate information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
 - establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all the above safety measures.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes¹](#)

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.

¹ Click to view the document