



Work Safety Alert **Struck by a Sheet Pile**

- 1. Date of Accident :** October 2017
- 2. Place of Accident :** A foundation site
- 3. Summary :**

A worker while assisting in sheet pile extraction work was suspected to have been struck to death by a toppled sheet pile which had been extracted out from the ground by an excavator.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered during the operation of sheet pile extraction, the contractor/ employer should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the followings:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the operation of sheet pile extraction, particularly taking into account the working environment;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the operation of the sheet pile extraction with due regard to the results of risk assessments, including the selection of suitable lifting appliance, attachments/ lifting gear as well as the competency of the workers involved;
- ensuring that the lifting appliance and the attachments/ lifting gear selected for sheet pile extraction should be suitable in design, type and capacity for the purpose;



- where an excavator is used for sheet pile extraction operation, ensuring that the excavator is by design suitable for the purpose and only the manufacturer's designated lifting point on the excavator is used for lifting sheet piles;
- ensuring that the relevant instructions, information, conditions, and restrictions as provided in the manufacturer's manuals should be observed when performing lifting operation with an excavator that is suitable for the purpose;
- ensuring that the lifting appliance and the lifting gear used in connection with sheet pile extraction work have been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner and regular inspections by a competent person before they are put into operation;
- ensuring that the lifting appliance for the purpose of sheet pile extraction work is operated by a person who holds a valid relevant certificate and is able to operate such machine safely by virtue of his experience and competence;
- ensuring that the worker responsible for attaching and detaching sheet pile to and from the lifting appliance has been properly trained in slinging and rigging and is hence capable of selecting suitable tackle and lifting gear as well as adopting proper rigging method;
- ensuring that an extracted sheet pile is securely suspended or supported before detaching from the attachments/ lifting gear of the lifting appliance;
- providing all workers/ employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- developing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety precautionary measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes](#)¹
- [Code of Practice on Safe Use of Excavators](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Loadshifting Machines for Earth Moving Operations on Construction Sites](#)¹

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.

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