



Work Safety Alert

Trapped by a Lift Car

1. **Date of Accident :** November 2017
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential building
3. **Summary :**

A worker while conducting lift maintenance at a residential building was trapped between the bottom of a descending lift car and the landing entrance on ground floor. He sustained serious injuries and passed away subsequently.

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

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in any lift maintenance work, the contractors/ 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 lift maintenance work, taking into account the nature of work to be carried out (including lift testing work), the work locations and the possible movement of the lift car;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the lift maintenance work with due regard to the results of risk assessments and the relevant codes of practice, industry guidelines, recognized international standards and lift manufacturer's specifications/ instructions;
- implementing a permit-to-work system to ensure that all hazards associated with the lift maintenance work are eliminated before allowing any worker/ employee to enter the lift shaft/ pit for work. Among others, the following safety precautions should be taken to prevent any unintended lift car movement:



- 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 pit via the lowest landing, the emergency button located near the landing door at the lowest floor or the car stopping device located at the car top should be depressed;
- 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 pit;
- 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 person who is competent by virtue of his substantial training and practical experience in relation to the relevant work;
- ensuring that only competent workers/ employees possessing adequate knowledge, skills and experience are employed to carry out the lift work;
- providing all workers/ employees, supervisors and related personnel involved in the lift work with necessary safety information, instruction and training;
- ensuring that workers/ employees, supervisors and related personnel involved in the lift work are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures, and fully understand their roles and responsibilities; and



- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

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 Safety at Work \(Lift and Escalator\)](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents in Lift Installation, Maintenance and Repairing Work](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Lift Works and Escalator Works by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department](#)¹
- [Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works : Volume 3 - Throughout the Occupation Stage of Building by the Construction Industry Council](#)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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