



Work Safety Alert

Crushed underneath the Crawler of an Excavator under Repair

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2017
2. **Place of Accident :** A demolition site
3. **Summary :**

A mechanic was found crushed underneath the crawler of an excavator being repaired by him. He was certified dead later on the same day.

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

To ensure the safety and health of workers/ employees engaged in inspection, maintenance and repair of a plant such as an excavator particularly for work underneath the plant, the plant owner/ contractor/ employer 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 plant inspection, maintenance or repair work, taking into account the nature of work to be carried out, condition at the work location and the equipment involved;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for plant inspection, maintenance or repair work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, particularly for work underneath a plant;
- siting the plant on uniform, level and solid ground for the inspection, maintenance or repair work;



- prohibiting any person working underneath raised plant unless it is properly and securely supported in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations or specifications;
- ensuring that the supports are not loaded in excess of their carrying capacity and are securely located under the supporting points of the plant to prevent undue movement or fall;
- demarcating and properly barricading an operating zone for inspection, maintenance or repair work underneath the plant and exercising strict access control with suitable warning notices displayed at prominent positions to prohibit unauthorised entry into the zone;
- ensuring that all the inspection, maintenance or repair work are carried out by a person who is competent by virtue of his training and practical experience, and has an adequate working knowledge of the plant;
- providing the workers/ employees involved with the necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures for the work; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Code of Practice on Safe Use of Excavators](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



職業安全及健康部
Occupational Safety and Health Branch
 勞工處
Labour Department



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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.