



## Work Safety Alert Fall from a Pile Casing Rotator

1. **Date of Accident :** March 2019
2. **Place of Accident :** A foundation site
3. **Summary :**

Two workers stayed on the working platform of a pile casing rotator (the rotator) to assist in the lifting work for relocation of the rotator by a crane. At one juncture, one set of lifting slings which had already been detached from the hook of the crane and stowed onto the working platform somehow slid to the bottom of the rotator, pulling off a section of the guardrail of the working platform which struck against the workers and caused them to fall into the inner hollow part of the rotator for a distance of about 3.4 metres. Both workers sustained injuries and one of them passed away two weeks later.

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

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in the relocation of a pile casing rotator (the rotator), the owners/ 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 relocation work, particularly the hazard of falling from height, taking into account the nature of work, the working environment and the lifting/ rigging method including the handling of the lifting slings;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of safety legislation and relevant guidelines;



- appointing a competent lifting supervisor for overall control of the lifting operation, with particular attention paid to the handling of the lifting slings and any work on the rotator platform;
- safeguarding the unprotected void space at the inner hollow part of the rotator through which persons are liable to fall by suitable covering or guard-rail;
- ensuring that the covering provided for the void space is so constructed as to prevent the fall of persons, materials and articles; and clearly and boldly marked as to show its purpose or be securely fixed in position;
- ensuring that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of the rotator platform is not less than 900mm and not more than 1150mm for a top guard-rail and not less than 450mm and not more than 600mm for an intermediate guard-rail; and that the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier is not less than 200mm;
- where the provision of covering or guard-rail to prevent fall from void space is impracticable and working at such dangerous places cannot be avoided, setting up an effective fall arresting system by providing every worker/ employee concerned with, and ensure the worker's/ employee's proper use of, a suitable safety harness with its lanyard continuously attached to a suitable anchorage throughout the work;
- ensuring that all materials (including lifting slings) on the rotator platform are stacked, kept or otherwise arranged in such a manner that no danger is caused to any person;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.



## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)<sup>1</sup>

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### 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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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document