



Work Safety Alert Fall from Receptacle Cage Top of a Material Hoist

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2018
2. **Place of Accident :** A building site
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was standing on the top of a receptacle cage of a material hoist to remove material that had jammed the cage to the hoistway at a building site, the cage suddenly descended and then stopped. A pair of hinged covers at the cage top opened causing the worker to fall a distance of about 2.5 metres from the cage top to the cage platform below. He sustained serious bodily injuries and passed away later on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors / Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in inspection, maintenance and remedial work of a material hoist, the contractor / employer responsible for the work 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 work, taking into account the nature of work, the work locations and the possible movement of the receptacle cage;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work, taking into consideration the results of risk assessments, manufacturer's specifications/ instructions, and following the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;



- avoiding workers/ employees performing work inside the hoistway or at any dangerous places where they are liable to fall by, for example, using specific hand tools or otherwise to ensure the work can safely be done from a safe place;
- ensuring that the receptacle cage is properly and securely fixed in position to prevent any unintended cage movement before conducting inspection, maintenance and remedial work inside the hoistway;
- providing and ensuring the proper use of suitable working platforms or other means of support for the work where necessary;
- if the use of suitable working platforms or other means of support is impracticable, setting up an effective fall arresting system by providing every worker/ employee concerned with, and ensuring the worker's/ employee's proper use of, a suitable safety harness with the lanyard continuously attached to a suitable anchorage throughout the work;
- ensuring that the hoist inspection, maintenance and remedial 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 and only competent workers/ employees possessing adequate knowledge, skills and experience are employed for the work;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with 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 that all safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System¹](#)

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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