



Work Safety Alert **Struck to Death by a Reversing Reach Stacker**

- 1. Date of Accident :** April 2019
- 2. Place of Accident :** A container terminal
- 3. Summary :**

An office worker was struck to death by a reversing reach stacker (a type of lifting plant for handling containers) when she walked past a vehicle access in a container terminal.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees from being struck by moving plant in a workplace, the proprietor/ 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 the operation of moving plant, taking into account of the workplace environment and the passage of pedestrians including workers/ employees and other persons staying in the workplace;
- formulating and implementing an effective traffic management system with due regard to the results of the risk assessments and relevant safety guidelines;
- providing and maintaining safe walkways away from moving plant for pedestrians to move around the workplace;
- demarcating designated walkways for pedestrians by suitable barriers and signages;



- displaying notices at prominent locations to alert pedestrians to the operations of moving plant and remind them of using the designated walkways;
- exercising control measures to avoid unauthorised entry into the operating zones and driveways of the moving plant;
- equipping each moving plant with suitable safety devices, such as closed-circuit television to enhance the operator's view of the road condition, and installing audio/ visual alarm for reversing motion to alert pedestrians nearby. All devices shall be properly maintained to ensure effectiveness;
- appointing a signaler to give signals to the moving plant operator if the operator does not have a clear and unrestricted view of the road condition;
- ensuring that every worker/ employee of the workplace is wearing a high visibility or reflective jacket so that they could easily be seen;
- ensuring that a moving plant is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to that type of plant;
- imposing speed limit to the moving plant and taking effective steps to prohibit overspeeding;
- ensuring sufficient lighting in every part of the workplace in which persons/ pedestrians are working or passing;
- providing all workers/ employees, in particular operators and signalers, of the workplace with necessary safety information, instruction and training in respect of the traffic management system, and ensuring that they are familiar with the 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](#)
- [Code of Practice on Mechanical Handling Safety in Container Yards¹](#)

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.

¹ Click to view document