



Work Safety Alert Trapped by Material Hoist

1. **Date of Accident :** November 2024
2. **Place of Accident :** A building site
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was loading boxes of tiles onto the platform of a material hoist on the 12/F of a building under construction, the hoist platform suddenly descended. The worker was then trapped between the hoist cage and the landing place on the 12/F. He was certified dead in hospital later on the same day.

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

To prevent any workers from being endangered by the movements of material hoists, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- ensuring all hoistway gates of a material hoist at each loading and unloading point are fitted with effective interlocking devices such that the hoist is operable only when all gates are properly closed;
- ensuring all interlocking devices are positioned and protected to avoid unauthorized access and interference;
- developing and implementing a permit-to-work system that consists of safety checks for a material hoist and its interlocking devices at the beginning of each working day, to ensure the safe operation of the hoist;
- developing and implementing a maintenance programme for daily checks, periodic tests and examinations, etc. of a material hoist, with particular emphasis on the safety devices installed;



- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the use of material hoist; and
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹ :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Use of Hoists under the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)
- [Safe Use of Material Hoist - Interlocking Device on Hoistway Gate](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

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 documents