



Work Safety Alert **Struck by Falling Curtain Wall Panel**

1. Date of Accident: December 2024

2. Place of Accident: A building site

3. Summary:

During a lifting operation, a webbing sling broke while being used to raise a heavy glazed curtain wall panel via a ceiling-mounted chain block. The panel then fell and toppled, striking a worker involved in the lifting operation. The worker was certified dead in hospital later on the same day.

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

To prevent any workers from being endangered by loads being raised or lowered by a lifting appliance and lifting gear, owners/ contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- ensuring that every chain, rope or other lifting gear (including webbing slings) is of good construction, made of strong and sound materials;
- ensuring that each chain, rope and other lifting gear (including webbing slings) is inspected before use on each occasion by a competent person such that it is free from any abnormal wear and tear, visual cracks, elongation or slackening;
- appointing a competent supervisor to oversee the lifting operation, including rigging/ unrigging of loads, and to ensure that all risks are effectively eliminated or mitigated;
- formulating a lifting plan with due regard to the weight, shape and nature of the loads to be lifted, and ensuring that lifting operations are



conducted at appropriate lifting angles to prevent excessive stress on lifting gear (including webbing slings);

- ensuring that all workers involved in rigging/ unrigging operations have been properly trained in rigging, are capable of using rigging methods suitable for the loads, and stay away from danger zones during lifting;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the lifting operation; and
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and the relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹:

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulation](#)
- [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