



A GUIDED SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORM FELL IN A CONSTRUCTION SITE AT MURRAY ROAD AND TWO WORKERS WERE INJURED

An accident happened on 18 Sep 2023 in a construction site at Murray Road. A guided suspended working platform (Guided-SWP) fell from height while two workers were carrying out lift shaft works, the two workers were injured and sent to hospital. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to draw your attention to this safety message. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

1. Failure to follow the procedures and recommendations specified in the manufacturer's assembly manual to carry out the erection and dismantling of the Guided-SWP.
2. Failure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to carry out the required maintenance and repair works.
3. Failure to make proper use of all safety devices of Guided-SWP and maintain well functioning.
4. Failure to implement the permit-to-work system for lift shaft works to ensure that all the required safety measures are adopted.
5. Failure to use safety harness, and the lanyards do not secure to the suitable anchors or independent lifelines.
6. Failure to provide the workers with adequate training, including the safety procedures, relevant instructions and the arrangement for emergency preparedness as specified in the safe system.

Critical Control Measures

1. Design

- Ensure the Guided-SWP is of good mechanical construction, fitted with all necessary safety devices for the safe operation, and free from patent defect.
- Follow the procedures and recommendations specified in the manufacturer's assembly manual to carry out the erection and dismantling of the Guided-SWP, particularly the secondary protection such as tie backs is installed.
- Ensure that the suspension rope and safety rope of the Guided-SWP are free from kink, broken wires, flatten surface or any other patent defect.

2. Operation

- Implement a permit-to-work system for lift shaft works to ensure that no person is allowed to enter the lift shaft while the Guided-SWP is in operation.
- Make proper use of all safety devices, maintain well functioning, and never interrupt their assembly.
- During the installation of a machine-room-less lift, it is prohibited to use a Guided-SWP to convey any machine components inside a lift shaft.
- The workers should use safety harness and secure the lanyards to the suitable anchors or independent lifelines.

3. Inspection

- Ensure the Guided-SWP is load tested and thoroughly examined by a competent examiner before the Guided-SWP is put into use after installation, repositioning and periodically. Besides, ensure that the Guided-SWP is inspected by a competent person every 7 days. Moreover, at the beginning of each work shift, the control switches, safety devices and pedal brakes should be functionally checked that it is safe and would not be interfered in any way.

4. Training and Supervision

- Ensure that every person working on the Guided-SWP received suitable training and obtained a certificate of training.
- The work team should have developed an effective monitoring and supervision system to ensure compliance with the above measures.



SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

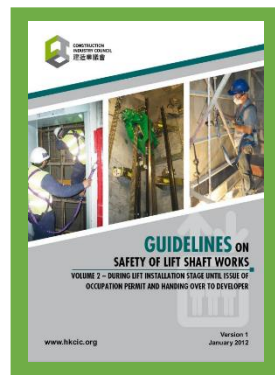
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider the hazards of working environment and space availability, consider and adopt the proper methods and selection of appropriate plant.
- During the construction stage, the construction team should properly plan, manage and supervise the works of the Guided-SWP, and ensure that the competence of the competent person in charge of the Guided-SWP is commensurate with his qualifications, trainings and experiences to that particular type of Guided-SWP and that the personnel working on the Guided-SWP has received suitable training to operate the Guided-SWP and obtained a valid certificate of training.
- The work team must ensure that the Guided-SWP have been inspected by a competent person prior to the commencement of the work to ensure that they are in good condition.
- Workers should comply with the developed safe working procedures, instructions and the relevant emergency procedures during work. If any malfunctioning or suspected defect of the Guided-SWP is observed, report it to their supervisors and take action against it.

Reference information for sharing



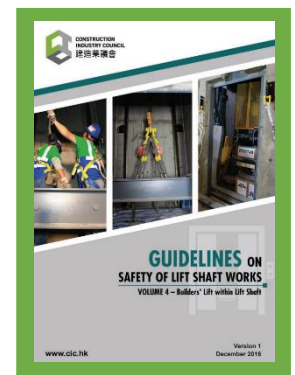
Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works
(Volume 1 – During Construction Stage and Before Handing Over to Lift Installation Contractor)



Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works
(Volume 2 - During Lift Installation Stage until Issue of Occupation Permit and Handing Over to Developer)



Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works
(Volume 3 - Throughout the Occupation Stage of Building)



Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works
(Volume 4 – Builders' Lift within Lift Shaft)