

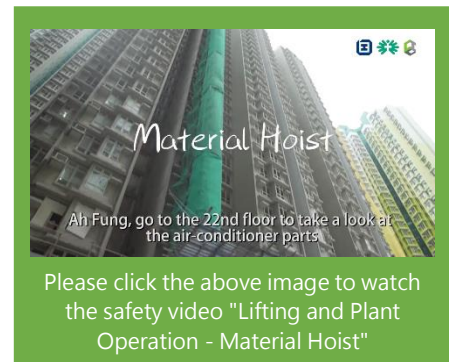


A WORKER DIED AFTER BEING CRUSHED BY A MATERIAL HOIST AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN TAI WAI

On 9 November 2024, a worker was trapped by a material hoist that descended suddenly, while he was loading goods at a construction site in Tai Wai. The worker was certified dead later in hospital. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. 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 equip the hoistway gate with an interlocking device, thereby defeating the purpose of keeping all gates closed before the material hoist could operate.
2. Failure to fit the material hoist with efficient brake or other similar safety devices to prevent the hoists and their loads from falling out of control.
3. Failure to inspect, repair and maintain the material hoist properly.
4. Untrained workers operate and use material hoist without authorisation.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.



Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments to identify the risks associated with the nature of work, working environment and possible movement of the material hoist; and develop safe working procedures.
2. Ensure that the material hoist is not operated for any purposes before completion of the enclosure erection work.
3. Equip each hoistway gate with interlocking device such that the material hoist is operable only when all gates are kept closed.
4. Do not interfere the interlocking devices of hoistway gate.
5. A hoist winch shall be fitted with efficient brakes or other similar safety devices to prevent a load suspended from the material hoist from falling out of control.
6. Ensure the material hoist is regularly tested, thoroughly examined and inspected by a competent examiner and a competent person respectively; and it is properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
7. A material hoist should only be operated and used by persons who have received proper training and obtain the authorisation.
8. Provide adequate and appropriate communication equipment such as walkie-talkie, ensuring an effective communication is maintained among workers working at different locations.
9. Provide workers with all necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures.

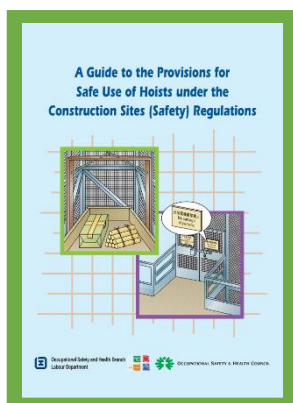


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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 working environment and the weight of materials being carried, select appropriate construction methods and machinery prior to the commencement of works, in order to reduce risks from the sources.
- During the construction stage, the work team should establish and implement an effective management system to ensure that the hoist shall not be used to carry any load greater than the applicable safe working load.
- The work team should consider install surveillance systems, such as CCTV in the material hoist, so that the operator in the control room can be aware of the working conditions of users on different floors to avoid misunderstandings in communication.
- Workers should follow the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any risks on sudden movement of material hoist, report it to their supervisors immediately.

Reference information for sharing



A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Use of Hoists under the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations
(Source: Labour Department)



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry

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