

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Industry Council Publishes **Safety Alert No. 004/13 Safe Use of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear**

Hong Kong • 3 October 2013 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) today released a new publication entitled *Safety Alert No. 004/13 Safe Use of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear* (Safety Alert). This Safety Alert is aimed at enhancing site safety by highlighting the safety measures that employers, contractors and workers should follow when using lifting appliances and lifting gear.

Introduction

Due to tight construction schedules and cramped working environment, the number of accidents and near-miss cases associated with the use of lifting appliances and lifting gear tend to escalate. The Safety Alert was developed by the Informal Task Force on Site Safety Incidents, under the CIC's Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS).

The Safety Alert recommends the following: ensure operators and signallers have completed the relevant training and hold valid certificates, ensure that all loads are securely attached by a competent rigger to avoid slippage or displacement, erect fences or barriers to ensure appropriate segregation between other people and the mobile plant, and inspect the conditions of lifting appliances and lifting gear before use.

Publication

Mr. CHEUNG Hau-wai, Chairman of the Com-CSS said, "Given the nature of the working environment, the use of lifting appliances and lifting gear pose a threat to workers and potentially to members of the public. We urge all employers, contractors and construction workers to consider the measures contained in this Safety Alert and re-examine their work site and current work practices to minimise any possible danger."

Mr. Victor KWONG, Chairman of the Informal Task Force on Site Safety Incidents said, "It is important that all parties on the site have had appropriate training and hold valid

certification to operate lifting equipment. They also need to have good communications with each other to avoid accidents or near-miss incidents.”

The Safety Alert is available for download on the CIC’s website www.hkcic.org.

About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed on 1 February 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance Cap. 587. The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry’s needs and aspirations to Government, provide training and registration for the construction workforce and serve as a communication channel for Government to solicit advice on all construction-related matters.

To learn more about the CIC, please visit www.hkcic.org for further details.

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(The Safety Alert can be found on P.3 to P.4)



The safe use of lifting appliances and lifting gear is important for construction workers when lifting heavy components or materials on construction sites. Due to tight construction schedules and cramped working environment, the numbers of accidents and near-miss cases associated with the use of lifting appliances and lifting gear tend to escalate. In order to prevent these accidents and near-miss cases, employers, contractors and construction workers should pay attention to the following safety measures:

As Employers and Contractors:

- Plan the lifting operation and ensure that a safe working system for lifting operation is in place with the provision of relevant information, instruction, training and supervision.
- Select and provide suitable equipment to ensure safe lifting operation taking into consideration the characteristics of loads, lifting method and physical conditions on site.
- Appoint a competent person and a competent examiner as appropriate to inspect, thoroughly examine and test lifting appliances and lifting gear on a regular basis. Lifting appliances and lifting gear should not be used unless they have been certified safe.
- Ensure that operators and signallers have completed relevant training courses and hold valid certificates.
- Ensure that all loads are securely attached by a competent rigger to avoid slipping or displacement of the loads.
- Deploy a trained signaller to give clear signals to an operator if he does not have a clear and unrestricted view for the lifting operation.
- Install a CCTV system on each mobile plant to broaden the field of vision of mobile plant operators, particularly at the rear side of the mobile plant.
- Install a flashing alarm system on each mobile plant to alert nearby workers.
- Erect fences or barriers to ensure effective segregation of persons from mobile plant.
- Closely monitor the lifting operation to ensure nobody stands beneath suspended loads and within the sphere of operation of any lifting appliances.

As Construction Workers:

- Lifting appliances' operators and signallers should undergo relevant training courses and have obtained valid certificates.
- The conditions of the lifting appliances and lifting gear should be inspected before use.
- An operator should follow the safe working procedures and the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe lifting operations, e.g. the outriggers should be fully extended as far as practicable and the "safe working load" should not be exceeded during the lifting operation.

Relevant Reference:

Labour Department / Occupational Safety and Health Council

- Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear) Regulations, Cap 59J
- Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes
- Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Cranes
- Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear
- OSHC - Safe Lifting



Disclaimer

Whilst reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, the CIC nevertheless would encourage readers to seek appropriate independent advice from their professional advisers where possible and readers should not treat or rely on this publication as a substitute for such professional advice for taking any relevant actions.

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CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

Safe Use of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear

Safety Alert No. 004/13

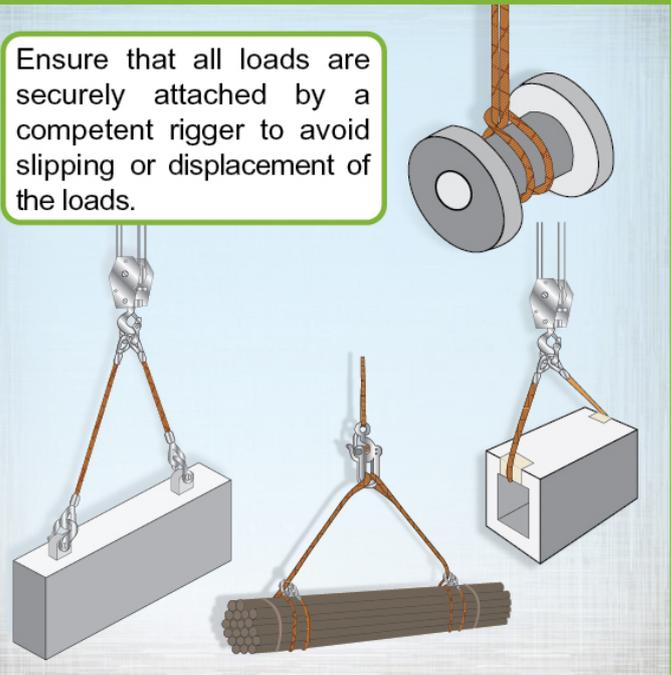
Page 2 of 2

Ensure that operators and signallers have completed relevant training courses and hold valid certificates.

Training for Operators and Signallers



Ensure that all loads are securely attached by a competent rigger to avoid slipping or displacement of the loads.



Erect fences or barriers to ensure effective segregation of persons from mobile plant.



The conditions of the lifting appliances and lifting gear should be inspected before use.



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