

## **Safety & Health Alert No. 23 / 2016**

### **Safety Precautionary Measures at Lift Works**

Date: July 2016  
Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

In February 2016, a fatal accident involving a worker of lift installation sub-contractor who was struck by a descending counterweight of a passenger lift under test and fell into the bottom of a lift pit from a height of about 4.4m occurred in a non-Housing Authority site. To prevent similar accidents on HA sites, contractors are strongly advised to take the following safety precautionary measures at lift work:-

For the Main Contractor:

- a. Holistically review company's corporate commitment and management to enforce safety practice on all construction sites effectively;
- b. Strengthen site management, site control and supervision of sub-contractors and workers, to ensure the effective implementation of "Permit-to-Work" system by both main contractor and lift installation sub-contractor;
- c. Strengthen communication and review the precautionary measures, including the risk assessment plan and "Permit-to-Work" system for works carried out in the lift shaft;
- d. Foster company's commitment as a responsible contractor to implement and follow through, the safety practice in accordance with the guidelines published by CIC and generally adopted by the industry; and
- e. Carry out internal audit to demonstrate effective implementation of "Permit-to-Work" system.

For the Lift Sub-Contractor:

- a. Strengthen sub-contractor management and site supervision; enhance safety awareness of site supervisors and lift workers, including those employed by lift sub-contractors, through adequate safety training and more frequent pre-work briefings;
- b. Implement effective safety measures: -
  - i. Permit-to-work system for all work in lift shaft;
  - ii. Lock-out-tag-out arrangement to prevent unexpected lift movement when performing lift work inside lift shaft / lift pit after lift power energisation;
  - iii. Installing stopping devices in lift pit before first run of lift car;
  - iv. Enforcing proper use of personal protective equipment, provision of communication devices and appropriate working platform and tools to workers; and
- c. Enforce delegation of site supervision in the absence of site supervisor.