

Safety & Health Alert No. 28/2022

Safety measures from the Labour Department – Safe Operation of Sliding Gates

Date : 5 September 2022

Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

The Labour Department (“LD”) is highly concerned about two fatal work accidents that had happened since 2019 involving the toppling of electric metal sliding gates during manual mode operations. These accidents are mainly related to the gate operation, their safety devices, structural components and improper maintenance. LD would like to bring your attention to the safety measures to prevent recurrence of similar accidents.

2. To ensure the safety of workers/employees engaged in sliding gate operations (especially when switching from electric to manual mode operation), safe plant and system of work shall be provided and maintained, which shall include, but not limited to the following:

- conducting task-specific risk assessments, and based on the results of the risk assessments to formulate and implement the required safe work procedures ;
- ensuring that the sliding gate is of good mechanical construction and properly maintained in safe conditions; the relevant measures include:
 - ensuring that the sliding gate is installed with suitable and effective device (e.g. stopper), for preventing the gate from being excessively pulled ;
 - checking whether the floor track is in safe condition and properly maintained frequently, to ensure that the gate slides safely on the track ;
 - setting up a regular inspection system and comprehensive mechanism for report of damage and maintenance, and ensuring that the gate and relevant device are properly inspected and maintained, and immediate repairs are carried out as required in accordance with the inspection findings ;
- providing all workers/employees concerned with the necessary information, instruction, training and supervision, and ensuring their proper operation of sliding gates, to safeguard their occupational safety and health.

3. According to the general duties provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509), the occupiers of premises/employers shall provide safe working environment, plant and systems of work for their employers. The Ordinance binds the Government and applies to all workplaces, including those under the jurisdiction of your Bureau/Department.

4. For safe operation of sliding gates, please refer to "A Safety Guide on Gate Work" published by LD, and "Code of Practice for Installation of Electrically Operated Sliding Gates, Sliding Glass Doors and Rolling Shutters" published by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department ("EMSD"). Relevant publications can be downloaded from LD's website <https://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/D/Gate.pdf> and EMSD's website below

https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/other_regulatory_services/electric_sliding_gates/publications/codes_of_practice/index.html

Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact Mr. JABBAR Aziz of Labour Department at 2852 4960.