

Safety & Health Circular No. 13/2010

Alert on Falling Materials and Proper Stacking/ Storage of Materials

Date: 29 July 2010

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

A series of incidents involving falling materials on construction sites has raised serious concerns over the proper stacking and storage of materials on site. As the primary duty holders in this regard, you are urged to take all necessary control measures to effectively manage and minimise such hazards.

Poorly planned and untidy sites are the underlying cause of many accidents/incidents. Your role in ensuring construction workplace safety is critical in ensuring that the storage and handling of materials is carefully planned and properly handled on all site operations and temporary works.

Specific regulations and codes of practice stipulate duties and responsibilities to ensure protection from falling objects and/or materials on construction sites. Key points to be addressed include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- 1 Observe CAP59I Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations—Regulation 49: *Protection from Falling Materials* and Regulation 52: *Materials Kept on Construction Sites*.
- 2 Keep storage areas well organised with appropriate stacking/storage systems. Ensure that materials are securely stacked in suitable locations and in such a way as to prevent overloading and/or rendering any floor or other part of a building/structure unsafe.
- 3 Conduct risk assessments for the handling, stacking and storing of materials with due consideration of relevant factors including ground and environmental conditions, and safe work practices.
- 4 Secure loose and/or light materials stored on roofs, open floors or platforms to prevent them from being blown away and/or falling from height.
- 5 Keep materials at a safe distance—at least 1.8 metres away—from any floor/roof openings and/or the edges of any excavations or trenches.

- 6 Provide adequate training and supervision of workers involved in materials handling.
- 7 Enforce the Safe Working Cycle to ensure safe work practices.