

## **Safety & Health Circular No. 08 / 2013**

### **Safety Alert on Operating Steel Bar Bending Machine – OSHC**

Date: 21 March 2013

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

#### **Safety Alert on Operating Steel Bar Bending Machine - OSHC**

A steel bar bending machine is a machine that is used to bend reinforcement bars made of steel and other heavy metals, and such machines are widely used in construction sites. Working with these machines for steel bar bending, fixing and cutting can be risky. In order to ensure safe operation of the bar bending machines and prevention of accidents, some important points to note (certainly not exhaustive) are summarized as follows –

1. A steel bar bending machine is a heavy, powerful machine. It must not be operated by inexperienced workers and operatives of the machine must have a very good understanding of the functioning and method of operation of the machine.
2. According to the requirements of HA's specifications, bar benders shall be registered skilled (trade-tested) workers with a percentage of semi-skilled (trade-tested) workers permitted for each contract.

#### **2.1 Skilled Workers shall be either one of the following:**

- i. A registered skilled worker or registered skilled worker (provisional) as defined in the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap 583);
- ii. Holder of a full trade test certificate issued by the Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA) or the Construction Industry Council Training Academy (CICTA).

#### **2.2 Semi-skilled Workers shall be either one of the following:**

- i. A registered semi-skilled worker or registered semi-skilled worker (provisional) as defined in the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap 583);
- ii. Holder of an intermediate trade test certificate issued by the Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA) or the Construction Industry Council Training Academy (CICTA).

3. According to HA's specifications, bar benders shall also obtain Silver Card, special trade specific training for site operatives engaged in high-risk operations.
4. Bar bending machines should be placed on firm, level ground, with sufficient clearance allowing safe access and operations.
5. Moving parts and cutters on metal bar fixed machines for cutting, bending etc should be guarded.
6. Workpieces or materials should be secured or gripped to prevent whiplashing or flying offcuts etc.
7. Do not allow operators to operate the steel bar bending machine under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication.
8. Provide sufficient information and safe work procedures for operating bar bending machines, training and supervision to operators/workers.

### **Relevant Legislation**

#### **Plant and Equipment**

- Duty of contractor to provide and maintain plant and equipment that is safe and without risk to health.
- Duty of contractor to provide operators/workers with adequate information relating to its safe and proper use.

#### **Fencing and Guards**

- The moving parts and cutters on the steel bar bending machine shall be effectively guarded.

### **Reference**

- Construction Sites (Safety) Regulation: Regulation 44 fencing of machinery  
[https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap59I?xpid=ID\\_1438403505689\\_002](https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap59I?xpid=ID_1438403505689_002)
- Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance Section 6A: General duties of a proprietor  
[https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap59?xpid=ID\\_1438403494847\\_003](https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap59?xpid=ID_1438403494847_003)