

Safety & Health Circular No. 11 / 2014

Transportation of Materials on Vehicles

Date: 11 March 2014

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

Incidents involving falling down of construction materials from vehicles within and outside construction sites have caused concerns over safety of construction sites and the public. Contractors must ensure and provide every means for safe transportation of materials on vehicles in accordance with the legislative requirements to prevent reoccurrence of similar incidents.

Measures which should be borne in mind for safe transportation of materials on vehicles include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Developing a safe system of work/transportation, analysing work process and conducting risk assessment with the material suppliers to identify potential hazards for delivery of materials. Suitable safety precautionary measures and safe method statements should be implemented and strictly adhered to by the suppliers and drivers. Review of the safety measures is needed when new situations arise.
2. Ensuring suppliers to choose the right type of vehicle to suit the types of materials and overhead structure along the delivery route. Assessing the delivery route thoroughly to ensure road surfaces are suitable for vehicles and eliminate risks such as steep slopes, sharp corners and blind bends before transportation.
3. Ensuring suppliers/drivers to position and stack the materials properly on the vehicle with adequate anchor points to avoid adverse impact on the stability of the vehicle.
4. Ensuring suppliers/drivers that the length, width and height of loads are restricted within permissible limits under Road Traffic Ordinance.
5. Ensuring suppliers/drivers to refrain from overloading the vehicle to avoid instability caused to the vehicle.
6. Ensuring suppliers/drivers to secure the materials onto the vehicle with proper restraints to prevent falling of loose materials from the vehicle.
7. Ensuring suppliers/drivers to transport dangerous goods or waste with a vehicle issued with a Dangerous Goods Permit.

8. Ensuring suppliers/drivers to avoid transporting incompatible substances such as combustible materials and waste oxidizing materials on the same vehicle.

Complying with relevant regulations, codes of practices and guidelines, including but not limited to, the *Section 6A of Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance on general duties of a proprietor in safe transport of substances*, *Road Traffic Ordinance*, *Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations*, *Code of Practice for the Loading of Vehicles* which can be retrieved from the Transport Department's website.

The captioned Code of Practice can be downloaded through the link below:

https://www.td.gov.hk/filemanager/en/publication/cop_loading_of_vehicles_eng.pdf

If you have any enquiries, please contact the enquiry hotline of Transport Department on 1823, or email: tdeng@1823.gov.hk.