

## **Safety & Health Circular No. 62 / 2015**

### **Enhanced Safety Measures While Working at Height for Dismantling Metal Structures**

Date: 11 November 2015

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

In a recent industrial fatal accident happened on a non-Housing Authority (HA) site, part of a metal working platform suddenly collapsed while two workers were working on it to dismantle a huge I-beam structure. The two workers fell together with the platform onto the ground for more than 10m and sustained serious bodily injuries. One of them passed away subsequently. To prevent similar accidents on HA sites, contractors are strongly advised to take the following enhanced safety measures while working at height for carrying out metal structure dismantling work:-

- (a) Specific risk assessment shall be formulated. The design, method statement & risk assessment for the dismantling work shall be submitted. After submission, they shall be reviewed and revised regularly and when necessary. For dismantling of huge metal structures, the registered structural engineer of the main contractor shall check and endorse the method statement, and approval and consent by relevant authority have been granted before execution.
- (b) Mobile elevating working platforms shall be deployed for the dismantling works as far as practicable.
- (c) Personnel using aerial working platforms shall wear full body harness with anchorage to the platforms.
- (d) A Permit-to-Work system with the appointment of an experienced foreman on-site in charge throughout the entire dismantling process especially for checking all critical stages shall be implemented. Communication shall be made directly through walkie-talkie.

- (e) A CCTV monitoring system shall be installed at strategic location(s) with an appointed supervisor to monitor, communicate and record the entire dismantling process. Communication shall be made directly through walkie-talkie. For locations where only overall view but not details can be captured, additional CCTV cameras may be required.
- (f) Safe operating procedures for dismantling of metal structure (in Chinese version) shall be displayed adjacent to the workplaces to alert frontline supervisory staff, workers and subcontractors' workers.
- (g) Refresher safety training shall be provided to frontline supervisory staff and subcontractors' workers to enhance awareness of safe system of work and safe operating procedures for dismantling of a metal structure.
- (h) Refresher safety training about hazard of working at height and the use of fall arresting system shall be provided to all workers especially for those required to work at height.
- (i) Pre-work briefing/meeting with the attendances of all relevant parties for briefing the workflow, crucial stages & hazard identification and precautionary measures shall be conducted at least a few days prior to commencement of dismantling works.

The content of this circular should not be regarded as exhaustive in respect of matters covered by relevant safety legislation. Contractors should formulate relevant safe working procedures and management systems according to the actual environment and operations on their own construction sites.