

Here is the footage from “Site Safety Seminar for Capital Works New Works Contracts”, which was held on April 8, 2014

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His presentation topic is “Surprise Safety Inspection Programme (SSIP) – Findings in Q4 2013 and Q1 of 2014”
(good practices)

Hello everybody. I come from Occupational Safety & Health Council, responsible for surprise safety inspection programme. You may have seen our inspectors coming to your site for inspection every quarter. Let me review our inspection findings in the past two quarters, i.e. the 4th quarter last year and the 1st quarter this year. According to our safety auditors’ observation, there are good and bad practices. I hope this sharing can help improving and correcting insufficient area.

Let me begin with good practice. In the 4th quarter last year, access ladders were installed at crawler crane for easy access to cabins. This is a good practice. As what our colleague presented, exposed reinforcement bars with suitable protection could protect the exposed reinforcement bars; safety net was set up in lifting zone; portable alarm system was used for tower crane operation. Display of gondola safety information by banner; updated versions of “electric shock” notice were placed on electric distribution box.

In an inspection, we mainly focus on five items. That is why what we inspect is less than the report we talked about just now. Among the five high risk activities, the first one is work at height.

Regarding the protection of mobile platform, this is a rather good arrangement here. When the mobile platform is not in use, it is covered with canvas.

As I said, this is an example of hanging informative banner on gondola. The safe load for two people is 250kg. Ladder is also arranged for accessing the cabin and crane.

What is the most ideal method? First, we suggest using ropes with terminal loop from the original supplier. What is better is to have steel thimbles plus a spring hook to secure on an eyebolt. The photo on the right was taken in the demonstration room of

our school in Tsing Yi. You may have been there. In the demonstration room, as you may have seen, this is the ideal practice.

Can we tie a knot? We have studied this. I sought advice from a senior training officer of Civil Aid Service who was an expert in tying knots in Hong Kong. I also referred to a research report in the U.K. in 2001 and a guidance notes issued in Singapore in 2012 on how a rope could be tied to an eyebolt. The best practice is of course the first one, i.e. a tied knot. A conclusion here about the tying the knot is that tying a Figure-of-eight knot or Double figure-eight-knot is the most reliable method. It is not like the knot we have seen just now.

Double figure-eight-knot means making the end of rope follow through the hole of figure-8 knot and leaving at least 200mm, or 8-inch end of rope or tie with an overhand know.

This is an acceptable practice. It is worth following and thus noteworthy in mountain rescue or working at height.

As for the protection of ropes, the first thing to consider is to avoid ropes from being placed at corners. If corners are inevitable, a pad should be added even if it is temporary. The pad should be made of natural materials, such as canvas or wool. The pad can be flat or as delicate as a tubular pipe. As you can see, the rope is covered with a tubular pipe, which is a desirable method, too. It is visible from the outside as protection, especially plastic pipes or pressurised pipes. A test has been carried out according to the report in 2001. It is better to have the protection than none if the rope is placed on a sharp edge. However, if the rope is on a round edge, it is better not to have the protection. Why? It is because the plastics will melt due to heat in friction with the surface. The melted plastics will be stuck to the independent lifeline, making the lifeline heat up easily. We should all note this. That is why I gave it half a tick. It is better to have protection with sharp edges, but it is not the case in other situations.

Regarding the housekeeping of site, using metal fasteners, wedging metal machines and setting up fences are good practices.

It shows a good practice here. The housekeeping is good on some sites with sufficient lighting and clear indication for washing area for cleaning hands and shoes. These set good examples. Goods are stored tidily on the pavement with proper fencing. We mentioned it before – those exposed metal bars had the risk of hurting people, so they

are covered with plastic pipe shrouds.

There is a huge banner reminding workers to keep the site clean. There are also posters advocating the concept of 5S. Let's now talk about lifting. This is a good example. We have seen it before. A mechanical-control protective net was installed above the bar bending yard to protect the bar benders below. This is a portable alarm system which reminds workers that lifting works are in progress and be aware. This is a good example.

Regarding the electric system, using the latest version of "electric shock" poster, which reminds workers to use 110-volt handheld electric tool. Such poster is good.

Just now we have covered practices in the 4th quarter of 2013. Now let us talk about the last quarter, i.e. the 1st quarter of the current year. Good practices are observed in provision of access ladder to the hoarding; provision of protective cover to the electric chain blocks; and new version of "electric shock" notice on electric distribution box were adopted.

Working at height.

As just mentioned, access ladder to the hoarding was provided. Safety hoop was provided at the back of access ladder.

Regarding site housekeeping, it is good to provide clear identification of storage and lifting area.

Hoisting.

In this concrete test, the electric chain blocks are well-protected that it has got two protective covers on it.

Electric system.

It is good that the latest version of "electric shock" notice is exhibited.

This is the end for the findings in the last two quarters. I should pass the time to our next speaker.