

SAFETY CIRCULAR ON FATAL ACCIDENTS IN THE METALWORKING INDUSTRY

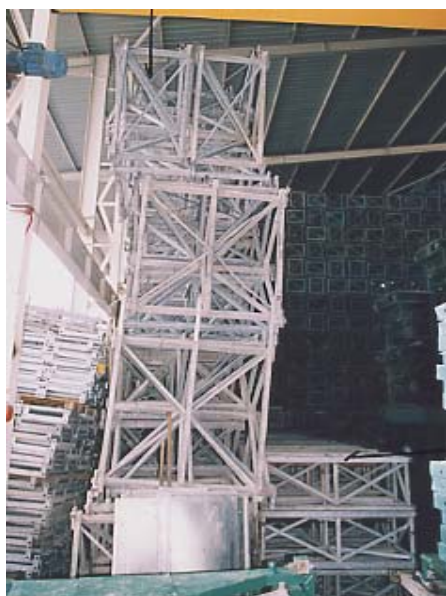


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Occupational Safety & Health Division
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INTRODUCTION

For the first eight months of 2004, there were a total of five fatal accidents occurred in the metalworking factories. Two of these cases involved workers struck by falling metal structures that were being stored. Another two cases involved workers being pinned under toppling metal plates during fabrication processes. These four accidents arose because of the unstable manner heavy metal objects were stored or supported. The fifth fatal accident was an electrocution case. Highlighted here are two of the accident cases.

Case A:



The deceased was working at the top of this stack of misaligned trusses when one slid downwards. The deceased then fell to the ground and was hit by the collapsing trusses, causing his death.

Case B:



The deceased was found pinned under the working deck which was resting on its web prior to the accident. There was no securing mechanism in place to prevent the collapse of the deck which weighed about 2 tonnes.

SAFETY MEASURES

The Ministry would like to remind the metalworking factories to observe the following :-

(A) Storage

- All goods, articles and substances **must be** stored or stacked in such a manner to ensure stability and prevent collapse.
- Adequate space **must be** provided for material handling equipment to be used safely.
- The foundation and floor of the storage areas **shall be** of sufficient strength to withstand the load;
- Supports to hold the work piece in position to facilitate fabrication work must be of adequate strength. Adequate number of supports must also be positioned along the entire length of the work piece to prevent collapse
- Rack used for storage of the heavy objects must be properly designed for the intended purpose.

(B) Mechanical Handling

- Factory occupiers must ensure that all crane operators and forklift operators are suitably trained and adequately qualified to operate their machines safely.

- All lifting supervisors, signalmen and riggers must be suitably trained before they are appointed.
- A set of procedure for lifting operation must be established and implemented for lifting operation.

For safety issues pertaining to safety requirements and storage of articles, please refer to **Singapore Standard CP27:1999** Factory Layout – Safety, Health and Welfare Considerations and **Section 33 of the Factories Act**.

For lifting operations involving cranes in a factory, occupiers are required to comply with the **Factories (Operation of Cranes) Regulations**.

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