



Work Safety Alert

Collapse of a Tower Crane

1. **Date of Accident:** September 2022
2. **Place of Accident:** A building construction site
3. **Summary:**

A tower crane at a building construction site collapsed and fell onto several containers underneath, resulting in three workers died and six others injured.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Owners/ Contractors/ Employers:**

To ensure the safe operation of a tower crane, the owners/ contractors/ employers should provide and maintain safe plant, which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- ascertaining the maximum pressures or forces which can be exerted by the tower crane on the ground or on other supports and tie frames;
- ensuring the ground or foundations, temporary supporting structures, grillages, packings, connections and anchorages for the tower crane should be of sufficient strength to withstand the maximum in-service and out-of-service loadings without failure;
- ensuring the siting of the crane, the assessment of maximum loads and the design of foundations, supporting structures and ancillary details should be certified by a safety supervision personnel;
- ensuring the erection of tower crane is directly supervised by a supervising engineer who is appointed for such work;
- ensuring the tower crane is of good construction, made of strong and sound materials;
- ensuring the tower crane has been certified in safe working order through tests and thorough examinations by a competent examiner before use;



- ensuring the tower crane is properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions by persons who are suitably trained and competent for such work; and
- ensuring the tower crane is regularly tested, thoroughly examined and inspected by a competent examiner and a competent person respectively.

5. Reference:

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulation¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear¹](#)

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

¹ Click to view document