

To all lift contractors

Safety Circular: Lifts Installation Works

A fatal accident occurred recently in May 2009 involving lift upgrading. A worker died after the lift's counterweight frame dropped and crushed onto him during the installation of the counterweights.

2. As a follow up to this recent incident, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) together with the Housing & Development Board (HDB) would like to highlight the following to all contractors undertaking lift installation work.

3. Many of the lift installation works are undertaken by sub-contractors. It is critical that these sub-contractors and their workers possess the necessary competency and capability in order to carry out the installation work safely. Main contractors have a duty to supervise these sub-contractors to ensure that the **method statements** are adhered to, particularly the proper installation of load bearing parts e.g. the termination wire ropes, as failure to do so can have serious consequences to the integrity of the lifts. Main contractors should conduct regular communication and audit on the sub-contractors to ensure that this is adhered to.

4. Contractors undertaking installation work should also conduct a risk assessment prior to starting work and identify the hazards in the installation work taking into consideration the configuration of the lift shaft. A safe work procedure should then be established. A key concern is the provision of **safe access and egress for workers** to reach areas within the lift shaft to carry out the installation work. In situations where workers are required to work at locations in which a proper work platform is not feasible, adequate fall protection measures must be provided such as safety harness and secured anchorage points

5. Lastly, contractors are also reminded that you have a duty to ensure that your workers have adequate instruction, information, training and supervision as is necessary for them to perform their work. . Under the Workplace Safety and Health Act and its subsidiary regulations, contractors are required to ensure that all reasonably practicable measures, such as those listed above, are taken to ensure the safety of their workers. Those who fail to do so may be taken to task under the Act.

The above statement is jointly issued by Housing & Development Board (HDB) and Ministry of Manpower (MOM).

