FACT SHEET ON RECENT OPERATIONS ON THE MARINE INDUSTRY

The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Inspectorate recently conducted a series of inspections on about 90 shipyards over a one-month period. The inspections which ended in the first week of October 2011, focused on the following areas:

- Use of cranes and compliance with the WSH (Operation of Cranes) Regulations;
- Use of scaffolds and compliance with the WSH (Scaffolds) Regulations; and
- Conduct of Risk Assessments and proper implementation of established Safe Work Procedures.

Of the 90 shipyards inspected, 40 were also included under “Operation Canary”, an enforcement exercise by the Occupational Hygiene Branch that looked into the implementation of the following programmes at workplaces:

- Hearing Conservation Programme;
- Chemical Management Programme; and
- Confined Spaces Management Programme.

Results and Findings

Over 80 contraventions were observed during the series of inspections, with about $7,500 in composition fines being issued. The three areas with the most number of contraventions are as follows.

i. Use of scaffolds
   - Failing to ensure that hanging scaffolds from which a person may fall more than 2 metres were constructed and installed in accordance with the design and drawings of a professional engineer.
   - Failing to ensure that work platforms on scaffolds were provided with guardrails to prevent the fall of persons.

ii. Working at height
   - Failing to ensure that open sides and openings into or through with a person is liable to fall more than 2 metres were covered or guarded by effective guardrails, barriers or other equally effective means to prevent falls.
   - Failing to ensure that access to and egress from places of work were safe for use.
iii. Lifting operations
   • Failing to ensure that a lifting plan was established and implemented before any lifting operation involving the use of any crane was carried out.
   • Failing to ensure that lifting gears were tested and examined by an authorised examiner before being used.

4 In addition to these, the following areas were observed under “Operation Canary”.
   • **Hearing Conservation Programme**
     40 workplaces were identified to have noise hazards. Frequently observed contraventions include failing to carry out noise monitoring and institute a training programme for persons exposed to excessive noise.
   
   • **Chemical Management Programme**
     29 workplaces were found using or handling hazardous chemicals. Frequently observed contraventions include failing to place hazardous substances under the control of a competent person and carrying out periodic air monitoring to assess the exposure level to chemicals.
   
   • **Confined Spaces Management Programme**
     30 workplaces have works that were conducted in confined spaces. The most common contravention was failing to provide suitable rescue equipment and reviving apparatus.

5 As a result, 80 notices of non-compliances were issued for the contraventions observed during “Operation Canary”.

6 Some of the contraventions observed are illustrated below for further reference.

| (A) Open sides and openings which were not covered or guarded by effective guardrails, barriers or other equally effective means to prevent falls | ![Open sides and openings](image.png) |
(B) Barricades ineffective in preventing falls such as:
- Gaps observed in barricades
- Mid-guard rails were not installed

(C) Workers working near edges and openings and were exposed to the risk of falling
(D) Lifting gears used were not tested and examined by an authorised examiner.

(E) Hanging scaffolds being used at the shipyards.