

FACT SHEET

UPDATES ON THE NATIONAL CRANE SAFETY TASKFORCE INITIATIVES

Background

The National Crane Safety Taskforce was formed in 2009 by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council to improve safety of crane operations. Led by Mr Tan Wee Seng, Managing Director of Lend Lease Singapore Pte Ltd, the Taskforce comprises members from various stakeholder groups such as government organisations, industry players, and crane suppliers and manufacturers.

2 To improve crane safety standards in Singapore, the Taskforce adopts a three-pronged approach – (i) enhance competencies and capabilities; (ii) enhance awareness of key issues; and (iii) strengthen standards and practices.

Crane safety performance in first half of 2011

3 While the number of serious injuries fell across the board in the first half of 2011 (as compared to 2010), the number of dangerous occurrences (DOs), at 14, is slightly more than half of last year's total number of DOs. There is a need to do more to ensure that better measures are put in place to prevent both injuries and DOs which can potentially lead to great harm for both workers and public property.

	2011 (1H)	2010	2009
Dangerous Occurrences	14	26	21
Workplace Fatalities	2	2	10
Non-fatal Workplace Injuries	36*	109	146

Table 1: Crane-related DOs, fatalities and injuries from 2009 to 2011

**Non-fatal workplace injuries are preliminary data*

Progress made in on-going initiatives since July 2010

4 To align with the WSH Council's 10-year construction sectoral plan announced in March 2010, the National Crane Safety Taskforce introduced several initiatives to enhance capabilities. Rolled out since July last year, these initiatives have been progressing very well with more intake and participation from the industry.

- a) Raising RM capabilities of Approved Crane Contractors
 - About 90% of the 121 Approved Crane Contractors (ACCs) have achieved bizSAFE level 3
- b) Raising competencies of Crane Operators
 - Crane Operators must possess the necessary knowledge to carry out lifting operations safely. The Workshop to Enhance Safety of Crane Operators (WESCO) is a mandatory requirement for Crane Operators before renewing their licenses.

- The Approved Training Providers for WESCO, NTUC Learning Hub and BCA Academy have conducted 57 sessions for over 1,100 operators¹.
- About 70% of those who have attended WESCO have completed and passed the assessment.

c) Raising competencies of Lifting Supervisors

- Lifting Supervisors must possess the necessary knowledge to supervise lifting operations which involve mobile and/or tower cranes. Attending the Lifting Supervisors Safety Course (LSSC) is a mandatory requirement for individuals who are assigned to supervise lifting operations.
- LSSC was launched in 16 August 2010 and conducted by 15 Approved Training Providers.
- Close to 1,590 supervisors have attended the course.

New initiatives to further enhance crane safety

5 After a year of capability building initiatives to help the industry improve its standards in crane operations and lifting activities, the Taskforce will continue with its efforts to reach out to the industry and raise awareness on crane safety.

6 The Taskforce has also worked with the Ministry to enhance the regulatory framework governing crane operations. Enhancements to the new WSH (Operation of Cranes) Regulations will take effect on 1 September 2011².

Safe Lifting Operation Kit

7 The Safe Lifting Operation Kit will be launched at the inaugural Crane Safety Symposium on 5 August 2011. The Kit will comprise the following collaterals developed to help the industry.

- Worker's Safety Handbook for Rigger and Signalman – to provide guidance on proper rigging and signalling methods
- Worker's Safety Handbook for Crane Operators – to provide guidance to operators of different types of cranes, including tower, mobile and gantry cranes
- Supervisor's Guidebook for Lifting Supervisor – to help lifting supervisors direct the other members of the lifting team
- Code of Practice for Safe Lifting Operation
- Safe Lifting Practices Poster
- Safe Lifting DVD (A compilation of animations and videos)

¹ There are about 5,000 registered crane operators.

² The WSH (Operation of Cranes) Regulations will replace the existing Factories (Operation of Cranes) Regulations from 1 Sept 2011. The key enhancements are:

- Requiring the implementation of a lifting plan before any lifting operation
- Requiring a Responsible Person to establish and implement the lifting plan before any lifting operation

Code of Practice on Safe Lifting Operation

8 The WSH Council has worked closely with the Taskforce to develop a new Code of Practice (CP) for Safe Lifting Operation at Workplaces. The CP, which is part of the Safe Lifting Operation Kit, provides practical guidance and set expectations on how to conduct lifting operations safely. The CP highlights key factors to be considered in the planning and execution of lifting operations, and introduces the elements of a comprehensive Lifting Plan as a systematic approach towards planning a safe lifting operation. In the next 6 months, the WSHC and Taskforce will work on helping industry put lifting plans in place. The Safety Compliance Assistance Visits (SCAV) which have been successful in promoting Work at Height safety will be similarly deployed to help industry develop and implement lifting plans on-site.

Collaboration with industry associations through seminars

9 In addition to the above, the WSH Council and the Taskforce will co-organise the *Crane Safety Industry Seminar Series* with industry associations such as the Singapore Contractors Association Ltd (SCAL), Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI) and key Manufacturing and Metalworking industry partners. These seminars will take place between July this year to the first quarter of 2012.

More courses to be launched

10 To help further raise the competencies of lifting personnel, the WSH Council have rolled out an enhanced training course for riggers and signalmen in May 2011, with particular emphasis on their roles in the lifting plan. A new Crane Erector Course for ACCs of tower cranes has also been rolled out to enhance the capability of ACC personnel involved in crane erection and dismantling. This course will have its first run from 27 to 29 July 2011. More information on the courses is available at www.bca.gov.sg/academy/Courses_Tests.aspx