

FACTSHEET ON OPERATION TALON

About “Operation Talon”

The Ministry of Manpower’s (MOM) Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate (OSHI) completed Operation Talon, a series of Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) inspections conducted in late 2012. The operation targeted safety lapses in the construction industry, and resulted in 27 Stop-Work Orders (SWOs)¹ and 1,093 fines and Notices of Non-Compliance (NNCs) issued to errant companies.

Results of Operation Talon

2 Operation Talon involved 529 worksite inspections of 378 companies, with fines imposed by MOM’s OSHI during the operation totalling more than \$350,000. Work at height (WAH), scaffolding, excavation and formwork continued to be the main areas of construction work that were found to have safety lapses (refer to Annex A(i) for Operation Talon cases).

Table 1: Number of SWOs and Fines / NNCs

Enforcement Actions	WAH Lapses	Scaffolding Lapses	Excavation Lapses	Formwork Lapses
Number of SWOs Issued	19	14	5	4
Number of Fines and NNCs Issued	248	216	32	24

Note: Number of lapses uncovered may not add up to totals in paragraph 1, as each enforcement action may have been meted out for multiple safety lapses.

3 More than 60% of SWOs issued during Operation Talon lasted for more than ten days. The downtime resulted in lost man-hours and productivity, as occupiers and employers had to stop work during that period to rectify the critical safety lapses at their worksites.

MOM to take errant companies to task

4 With the sector set to grow further in the coming years, construction companies should continue to work to strengthen WSH measures in the workplace and fulfill their obligations to ensure the safety of their workers. Occupiers and employers who fail to conduct proper risk assessments and take safety measures may face prosecution under the WSH Act.



¹ A Stop Work Order, issued in instances where severe lapses in safety and health conditions cause immediate danger to the persons at work, requires the specified work to cease until measures have been taken to ensure that such work can be carried out safely.



Annex A(i)
Operation Talon Cases

W Y Steel Construction Pte Ltd

On 10 Sep 2012, officers from MOM's Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate conducted an inspection at WY Steel Construction Pte Ltd's construction site at 64C Lorong M Telok Kurau. The inspection uncovered unsafe work at height, unsafe scaffolding, no safe means of access and exit, and poor housekeeping leading to unsafe work conditions. The development, a 5 storey apartment block, was issued a Stop-Work Order (SWO) on 10 Sep 2012. The SWO was lifted 15 days later on 25 Sep 2012.

Examples of safety lapses at the construction site



<u>S/No</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Type of Safety Lapse</u>	<u>Details</u>
1		Unsafe work at height	On the fourth storey of the building, workers were erecting formwork (concrete mould) structures without fall protection, exposing them to the risk of falling off the structure.
2		Unsafe work at height	On the third storey of the building, no barricade was set up to prevent workers from falling off an open edge of the structure.


3		<p>Unsafe work at height</p>	<p>On the second storey of the building, plastic tapes were used as barricades for scaffolding gaps. These plastic tapes were ineffective barricades that would not prevent a worker from falling off the open edge of the structure.</p>
4		<p>Poor house-keeping</p>	<p>Generally poor housekeeping was observed throughout the site. Construction materials and debris pose a hazard to workers, as the materials may fall onto workers and injure them. The debris may also cause workers to trip.</p>

Leacon Construction

On 14 Sep 2012, officers from MOM's Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate conducted an inspection at Leacon Construction's construction site at 82 Gerald Drive. The inspection uncovered unsafe work at height, unsafe scaffolding, no safe means of access and exit, and unsafe formwork. The development, comprising two units of 3-storey houses, was issued a Stop-Work Order (SWO) on 14 Sep 2012. The SWO was lifted 13 days later on 27 Sep 2012.

Examples of safety lapses at the construction site

<u>S/No</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Type of Safety Lapse</u>	<u>Details</u>
1		Unsafe work at height	Workers erected formwork (concrete mould) structures without fall protection systems, exposing them to the risk of falling off the structure.
2		Unsafe work platform	A work platform on scaffolding was not secured to the scaffolding structure, exposing workers to the risk of falling to the ground.

3		Unprotected openings	The opening of an excavated pit (with a depth of 1.2m) was not protected by proper barricades, exposing workers to the risk of falling into the pit.
---	---	----------------------	--