



HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 ISSUE 03

JUL-SEP 2015

ON THE COVER
DECKING OF
SUNGEI KETAPANG



+ —
WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH HANDBOOK

NOISE IN THE WORKPLACE

INCIDENT

- A crawler crane was lifting bundles of reinforcement bar links (rebar links) from a trailer bed to a six-storey high work area.
- During lifting, one bundle detached from the entire load and hit a worker working on the trailer bed. He was subsequently pronounced dead on scene by paramedics.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Persons in control of or carrying out similar work activities are advised to consider the following control measures to prevent the same accident from happening again:

1. Proper Securing of Load

- Use only proper and adequate tie-down devices.
- Secure all loose parts to prevent them from falling off during the lifting process.

2. Lifting Zone Demarcation

- Demarcate and barricade the lifting zone to prevent any unauthorised person from walking into the hazardous work zone.
- Do not allow any person to work or walk under a suspension load.
- Allow only the authorised lifting team (i.e. lifting supervisor, signaller and rigger) to be in the vicinity of the lifting zone.
- Ensure that the rigger is at safe distance away from the potential swing radius of the crane before proceeding to lift the load.

HSE ALERTS Worker Struck During Lifting Operation

Fallen Reinforcement Bar Links



View of the trailer bed and position of the deceased

3. Worker Training

- Ensure that each member of the lifting team has attended and passed the relevant course conducted by an MOM Accredited Training Provider (ATP) (e.g. Lifting Supervisor Safety Course, Signaller Course, and Riggers Course).
- Lifting team personnel must be competent in their job and made aware of on-site risks.
- Only trained riggers should be allowed to secure loads for lifting.

4. Lifting Plan

- Use the appropriate lifting equipment for the job (i.e. appropriate lifting machine, lifting appliances & gear).
- Assign safe positions for the lifting team that are clear from the slewing path of the crane during the lifting operation.
- Communicate the lifting plan to the lifting team and make sure they fully understand it.
- Provide the necessary supervision to ensure lifting is carried out as planned. ✱

HSE CONCERN

Worker jailed for making fraudulent claim under Work Injury Compensation Act (WICA)

02 September 2015, Ref: 1516035

On 13 August 2015, a foreign worker pleaded guilty to making a fraudulent claim under WICA. He was sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment.

The Accused is Takluder Juel ("Juel"), a Bangladeshi worker employed by You

Cheng Pte Ltd. Juel claimed that on 6 Jun 2014, he tripped over some loose rebars and injured his right hand by a rebar-cutting shear machine. Portions of some fingers were sheared off by the machine blade.

However, investigations by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) uncovered a CCTV footage revealing that Juel did not trip and fall. He had self-inflicted the injury by extending his hand into the machine.

MOM proceeded to prosecute Juel under Section 35(2)(f) WICA for making a fraudulent claim. Juel pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment. He will also be barred from future employment in Singapore.

MOM would like to seek employers' support to remind all workers of the consequence when they abuse the Work Injury Compensation System, which is designed to ensure that workers who suffered injuries as a result of work get fair and expeditious resolutions. Employers and supervisors are recommended to share the case study with their employees during employee orientation programmes and safety briefings.

It is an offence under the Work Injury Compensation Act (WICA) to make a fraudulent claim. Those who are found guilty will face a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or imprisonment for a term not more than 12 months or both.

FEEDBACK

Tell us what you like best about the newsletter and how we can make it even better.

Send your feedback or comments to asri@hsl.com.sg

GOING LONG & STRONG @ LAGUNA

PROJECT LTA T3009 – DECKING OF SUNGEI KETAPANG

OWNER Land Transport Authority (LTA)

START DATE Apr 2015

COMPLETION DATE Aug 2016



Good Housekeeping on Site – Proper cylinder storage area with locks and chain for securing



Chemical storage area with bund wall and SDS clearly displayed + provision of spill kit is also made available



CHALLENGES

- Liasing with Government Authority Bodies
- Rising to the stringent LTA project specification

(left) **Monthly Fruits Day** – Promoting good health among workers

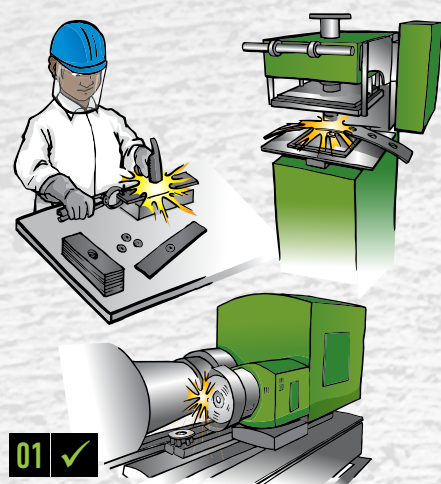


**Safety is like a lock,
but YOU are the KEY.**

SAFETY QUOTES

Identification of Noisy Environment

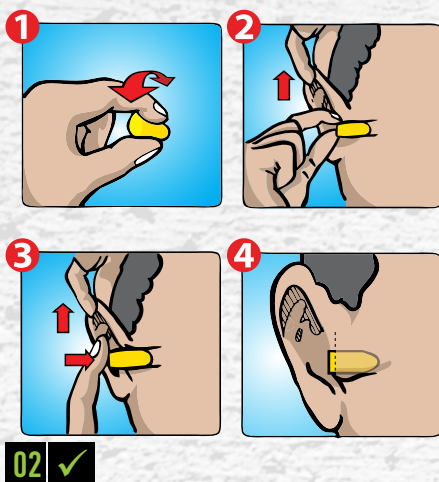
Identify source of noise



01 ✓ Identify the source of noise and report machine breakdown.

Control Measures

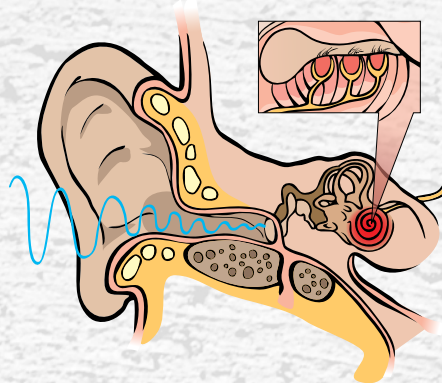
Wear ear plugs



02 ✓ Wear your plugs correctly.

Control Measures

Protect your hearing



03 ✓ Protect your hearing to prevent permanent hearing loss.

Control Measures

Wear correct personal protective equipment (PPE)



Noise Exposure Level	Choice of hearing protectors
85 db(A) – 100 db(A): noisy	ear plug or ear muff
above 100 db(A): very noisy	ear plugs and ear muffs

04 ✓ Wear the correct PPE for different noise levels.

Control Measures

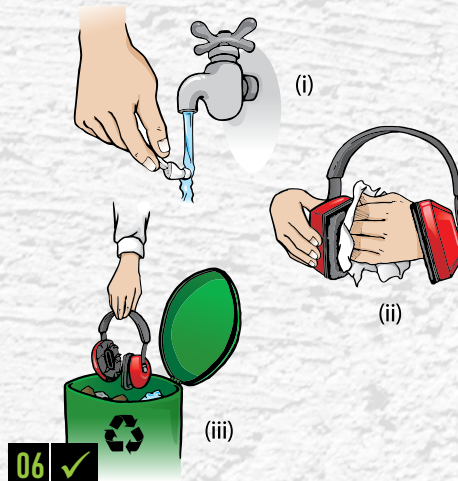
Recognise hearing problems



05 ✓ Stop work and seek medical help immediately if you experience hearing problems such as tinnitus (persistent ringing) or hearing muffled sounds.

Control Measures

Care for hearing protectors



- Clean and rinse ear plugs well with warm water. Keep in the case provided by the manufacturer.
- Wipe the cushion of the ear muffs with a damp cloth when soiled.
- Dispose the ear muffs if they are worn-out or torn.

HSE FOCUS

Published in November 2010 by the Workplace Safety and Health Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower. This publication is available on the Workplace Safety and Health Council Website: www.wshc.sg

Working in Noisy Environment (WiNE)

Control Measures

Observe warning signs

Observe warning signs on hearing protection. Wear correct hearing protectors when entering Hearing Protection zones.

Control Measures

Close up noise control enclosures

Close up the noise control enclosures when machines are in use. Wear proper hearing protectors.

WSH: Haze Guidelines + Advisory

At this time of the year, PSI (Pollutant Standards Index) levels rise above normal and hazy conditions are expected. Read up on the guidelines for employers on protecting your employees from the effects of the haze.

CONDITION	ACTION LEVEL	PROJECT LEVEL ACTION PLAN
PSI reading of 100 - 200	Haze Advisory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make announcement to all project staff on PSI level and required actions. High Risk group to cease outdoor activities and all personnel whom are required to work outdoor should don on at least N95 dust mask.
PSI reading of 201 - 300	Haze Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make announcement to all project staff on PSI level and required actions. Defer non-essential works. Personnel working outdoor shall don at least N95 dust mask. Employees whose eyes are affected by the particles should put on safety goggles. High Risk group to cease all work activities and return to air conditioned office.
PSI reading of 301 - 400	Hazardous Haze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make announcement to all project staff on PSI level and required actions. Stoppage of all outdoor activities and all personnel to return to rest area; personnel still required to wear at least N95 dust mask. Employees whose eyes are affected by the particles should put on safety goggles. High Risk group to cease all work activities and return to air conditioned office. Demobilize all employees from site to their respective dormitories if Very Hazardous level persists for more than 2 hours.
PSI reading above 400	Very Hazardous Haze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make announcement to all project staff on PSI level and required actions. Stoppage of all outdoor activities and all personnel to return to rest area; all personnel still required to wear at least N95 dust mask. High Risk group to cease all work activities and return to air conditioned office. Demobilize all employees immediately from site to their respective dormitories if Very Hazardous level.
NOTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work may resume if PSI reading drop below 300 and necessary actions taken as above. Any employee may choose to cease working at any level of PSI reading, if he feels his health is affected. Such employee must report to his Site In-Charge about his condition as soon as he ceases his work. 	

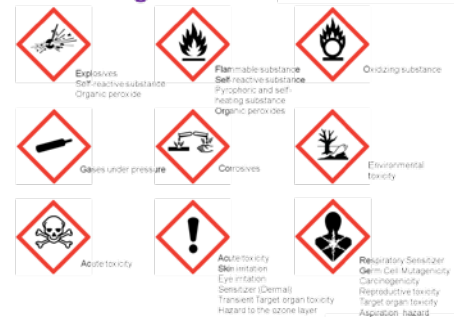
INTRODUCTION TO

GLOBALLY HARMONISED SYSTEM (GHS)



The Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a system for chemical classification and hazard communication through harmonised provisions for Standardised labels and Safety Data sheets (SDS) developed by United Nations (UN). It is developed from various existing systems in the US, EU, Canada, and from UN's own research and study of universal standards. Singapore has agreed to adopt GHS in 2002.

GHS Pictograms



TIMEFRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Suppliers of chemicals are required to prepare GHS SDS and product labels, and users are required to provide GHS labels in accordance with the requirements specified in Singapore Standard - SS586. Almost every industry will be affected by the GHS. The main industries include chemical manufacturing, petrochemicals, electronics, metalworking, paint manufacturing, printing, transport equipment, storage and warehousing.

Companies with existing chemical hazard communication systems based on SS 286 - "Caution Labelling for Hazardous Substances" (replaced by SS 586 Parts 1 and 2), and Code of Practice CP 98 - "Preparation and Use of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)" (replaced by SS 586 Part 3), will need to prepare phase-in strategies for transition from their current systems to the new GHS requirements based on the new SS 586 series.

GOVERNMENT UPDATES



Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

The GHS is essentially a hazard communication system for identifying and conveying chemical hazards, and for providing information related to chemical hazards and their control and prevention.

The GHS requires chemicals to be classified based on their inherent properties or hazards and in accordance with certain classification criteria. The classified chemicals are assigned to a fixed set of GHS pictogram(s), signal word, hazard and precautionary statements. The GHS also requires SDS to be prepared for all classified hazardous chemicals in accordance with a standardised 16 sections format.

Information provided on the labels and SDS enables users of hazardous chemicals to identify the hazards and take the necessary preventive or protective measures for their health and safety. In addition, labelling and SDS form part of the broader Management of Hazardous Chemicals Programme (MHCP). The GHS hence provides the underlying infrastructure for the establishment of the MHCP.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of GHS is to enhance the protection of humans and environment against hazardous chemicals as well as to facilitate international trade by ensuring that all chemicals moving into and out of a country are classified, packaged and labelled in accordance with a globally harmonised system.

BENEFITS OF GHS

GHS helps to get every country on the same page for chemical regulations and standards. The harmonisation of chemical classification and labelling across the different countries ensures that there is consistent information and communication of chemical hazards. A harmonised hazard communication system hence helps chemical companies to reduce the cost and time required to comply with multiple regulations, making the international sale and transportation of hazardous chemicals easier. Workplace conditions are also made safer for all chemical users and employees who are exposed to chemical hazards.



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Be healthy at work*

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HOW
YOU LIVE

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