

ASMI 27th Workplace Safety & Health Convention

15 May 2025

Resources

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BREAKOUT SESSION

MORE
INFO



TRACK 1

@ LEVEL 1
TRAINING ROOM T1C

TRACK 2

@ LEVEL 1
AUDITORIUM

2.50 PM

Dust Explosion

by Mr. Oh Hong Jia, Ministry of Manpower

3.20 PM

High-Risk Machinery (Cranes & Lifting Machines)

by Mr. Abdul Fadhil, Ministry of Manpower

3.50 PM

Business and Workforce Transformation through Company Training Committee (CTC)

by Mr. Ivan Lee, NTUC

Heat Stress Solutions for the M&OE Sector

by Mr. Soh Zhen Yao, WSH Institute

Introduction to WSH Guidelines on Personal Flotation Devices (Life Jackets)

by Capt. Mohamad Salleh, Workplace Safety and
Health Council

Sharing on Recent Years' Fatalities/Accidents

by Mr. Dzul Fazly, Ministry of Manpower

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15 May 2025

Preventing Dust Explosions

Er. Oh Hong Jia

OSHD, Major Hazards Department



*Empowered Workforce,
Thriving Workplaces*

Agenda

1. Understanding Combustible Dust Explosion
2. Updates in Regulatory Requirements
3. Risk Management
4. Case Study
5. Key Takeaways and Resources



What is combustible dust

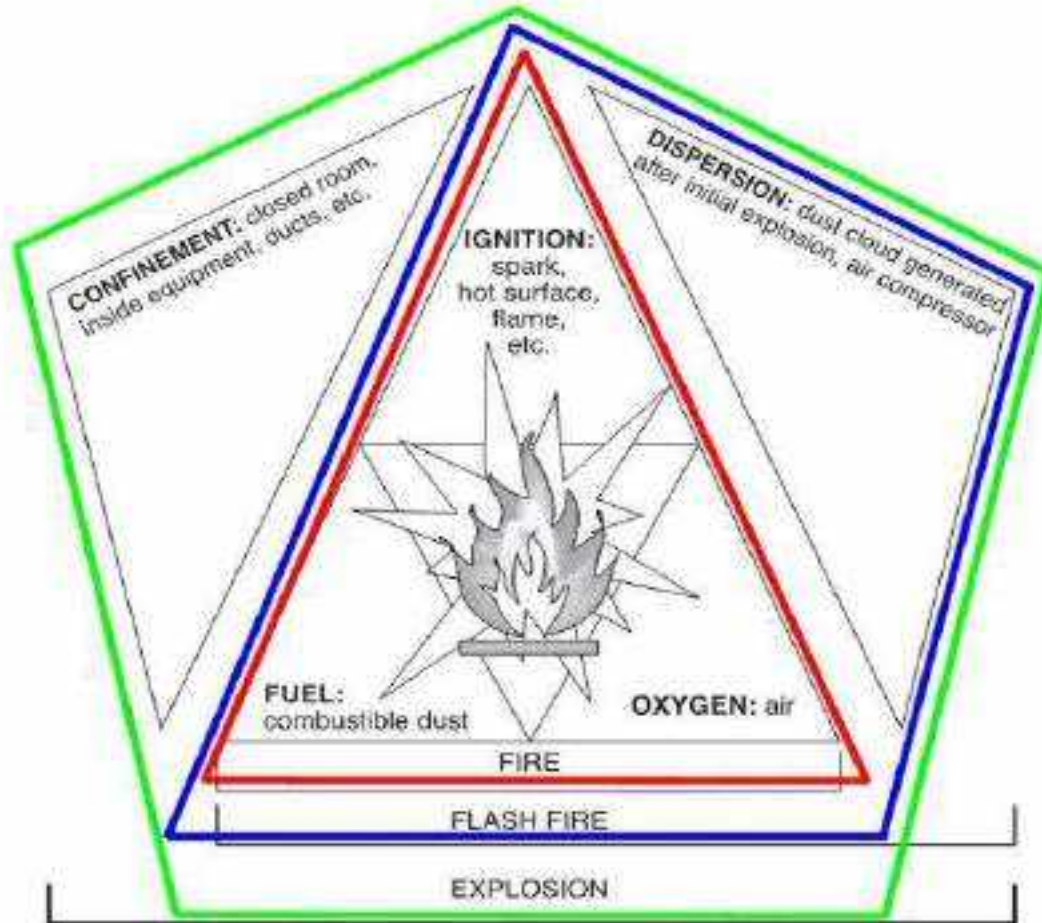
“Combustible dust refers to any finely divided combustible particulate solid (regardless of size, shape, or chemical composition) when processed, stored, or handled in the facility, that presents a flash fire hazard or an explosion hazard when suspended in air or the process-specific oxidising medium over a range of concentrations.”

This includes substances listed in the Fourth Schedule of WSH (General Provisions) Regulations.

Possible combustible dusts in marine workplaces (non-exhaustive list here) include:

- Organic dusts, found in cargo holds: Grain flour, wood dust, sugar, starch, cocoa powder, coffee grounds, tea dust, charcoal, and dried food products
- Metal dusts, gathered during abrasive blasting, grinding: Aluminum powder, iron filings, magnesium shavings, zinc dust, and titanium particles

Dust Explosion Pentagon



Red – 3 elements for a fire

Blue – 4 elements for flash fire

Green – 5 elements for combustible dust explosion

Source: <https://www.hallam-ics.com/blog/combustible-dust-fundamentals-nfpa-652>

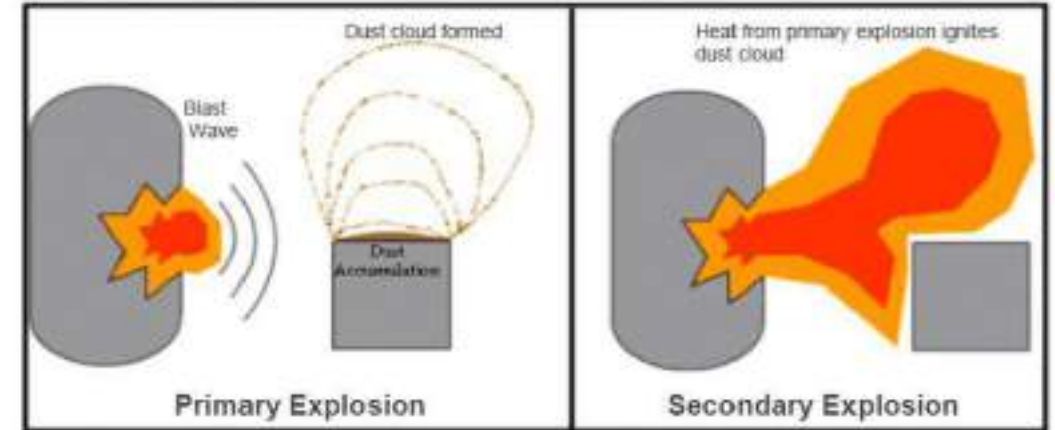
Secondary Explosion

A primary explosion in an area where fugitive dust has accumulated may shake loose more accumulated dust or damage a containment system (such as a duct, vessel, or collector).

The additional dust dispersed into the air may cause one or more secondary when ignited. These can be far more destructive than a primary explosion due to the increased quantity and concentration of dispersed combustible dust.

Examples:

- Imperial Sugar incident, 2008 (14 fatalities, 28 injured)
- Kunshan Zhongrong Metal Product Company, 2014 (146 fatalities, 114 injured)
- Stars Engrg Pte Ltd, 2021 (3 fatalities, 7 injured)



Areas/Works where dust hazards can be found:

- Confined Spaces like storage hulls in ships previously used to store organic solids e.g. grains or coal.
- Dust collectors for organic powders, metal dust, wood dust.
- Abrasive blasting, grinding, polishing and wood working areas

Updates in Regulatory Requirements since Jan 2025



From 1 January 2025, the list of hazardous substances in the Fifth Schedule of the WSH Act is expanded to include combustible dust. Duties of manufacturers and suppliers will also be extended to include combustible dust.

- **Labelling for combustible dust:** Statement "[Warning: May form explosible dust-air mixture if dispersed](#)" needs to be explicitly stated on the label.
- **Notification on use of combustible dust:** Factories that handle, sort, pack, store, process, manufacture or use combustible dust specified in the Fourth Schedule of the WSH (General Provisions) Regulations at or above the prescribed threshold quantity will be required to notify MOM and the owner of the factory such as the building owner or landlord.



1. Provision of information for hazard communication

A label is required on all containers of combustible dusts in any workplace, to:

- Warn of combustible dust hazard
- Communicate precautionary measures to be taken

A. For organic[^] (in packages of 25kg or more), non-hazardous[#] chemical or plastic combustible dusts

[^] Examples of organic dust include potato starch, flour, cocoa powder etc.

[#] Non-hazardous refers to substances not classified as hazardous under GHS e.g. lactose, polyethylene

Labels to warn of combustible dust hazard to include:

“Warning: May form explosible dust-air mixture if dispersed”

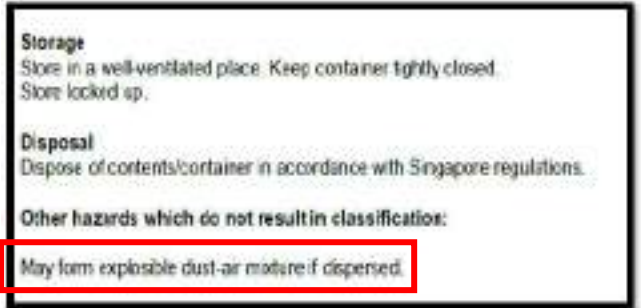
B. For metal, other chemical or plastic combustible dusts

A warning statement is required on the GHS* label and in the Safety Data Sheet* (SDS).

e.g. A GHS label for combustible dust



e.g. SDS excerpt, from the Hazard Identification section




* For more info, refer to:
 Singapore Standard 586 on Specification for hazard communication for hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods
 – Part 2: Globally harmonised system of classification and labelling of chemicals – Singapore's adaptations
 – Part 3: Preparation of Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)



2. Notify MOM and building owners on use of combustible dusts

Factories# handling the prescribed list of combustible dusts^ that meet or exceed the respective threshold quantities, are required to notify MOM and building owners:

- a) At least one month before the use of combustible dusts in the premises
- b) Not later than 1 month after ceasing the use of all combustible dust in the premises

| Details of combustible dust notification to MOM | |
|---|---|
| <p>Combustible dust info to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The <u>types of combustible dust</u> and 2) The <u>respective quantities used</u> within the premises <p>The workplace combustible dust notification is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via MOM’s eService portal; • A part of factory notification / registration; and • Applicable to both new and existing factories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Existing factories – add combustible dust info to their factory licence details. ✓ New factories – include combustible dust info when applying for factory notification/registration. • Changes to combustible dust info: Factories to provide updates in their factory details, via the eService portal. | <div style="border: 2px solid #800000; border-radius: 20px; background-color: #add8e6; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><i>Refer to user guide to assist company on how to submit combustible dust notification using the eService portal</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>User guide</p>  </div> |

8 # Factories defined under the Fourth Schedule of the Workplace Safety and Health Act
 ^ Refer to the 4 tables on the next slide, for metal, organic, plastic, and chemical combustible dusts and their respective threshold quantities



Combustible Dust listed in Fourth Schedule

| Organic Combustible Dusts | | | Threshold quantity per substance | Plastic Combustible Dusts | | | Threshold quantity per substance |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Alfalfa | 15. Egg white | 29. Peanut | 100 kg | 1. Epoxy resin | 100 kg | | 100 kg |
| 2. Apple | 16. Garlic | 30. Peat | | 2. Ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer | | | |
| 3. Beetroot | 17. Grains (malted) | 31. Potato and its derivatives | | 3. Melamine | | | |
| 4. Carbon black | 18. Grains (spent) | 32. Soot | | 4. Polyacrylamide | | | |
| 5. Carrageenan | 19. Grass | 33. Soybean and its derivatives | | 5. Polyacrylonitrile | | | |
| 6. Carrot | 20. Hops | 34. Spice | | 6. Polyethylene | | | |
| 7. Cereals (for example, barley, corn, oat, rice, rye and wheat) and their derivatives | 21. Lemon peel or pulp | 35. Sugar | | 7. Polypropylene | | | |
| 8. Charcoal | 22. Linseed | 36. Sunflower seeds | | 8. Polyvinyl acetate | | | |
| 9. Coal | 23. Locust bean gum | 37. Tapioca | | 9. Polyvinyl alcohol | | | |
| 10. Cocoa | 24. Milk and its derivatives | 38. Tea | | 10. Polyvinyl butyral | | | |
| 11. Coconut and its derivatives | 25. Olive pellet | 39. Tobacco | | 11. Polyvinyl chloride | | | |
| 12. Coffee | 26. Onion | 40. Walnut | | 12. Terpene-phenol resin | | | |
| 13. Coke | 27. Parsley | 41. Xanthan gum | | 13. Urea-formaldehyde-cellulose | | | |
| 14. Cotton and its derivatives | 28. Peach | 42. Yucca seeds | | 14. Phenolic resin | | 25kg | |
| 43. Cellulose | 44. Cork | 45. Wood | 15. Polymethyl acrylate | | | | |

| Chemical Combustible Dusts | Threshold quantity per substance |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Adipic acid | 100 kg |
| 2. Ascorbic acid | |
| 3. Calcium acetate | |
| 4. Calcium stearate | |
| 5. Carboxy methyl cellulose | |
| 6. Dextrin | |
| 7. Lactose | |
| 14. Anthraquinone | Any quantity |

| Metal Combustible Dusts | | | Threshold quantity per substance |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Bronze | 4. Iron carbonyl | 7. Tantalum | 100 kg |
| 2. Copper | 5. Manganese | 8. Titanium | |
| 3. Iron | 6. Silicon | 9. Zinc | |
| 10. Aluminium | 11. Magnesium | 12. Niobium | Any quantity |



Managing Dust Risks: Hazard Identification

Fourth Schedule of WSH (GP) Regs

- List of combustible dust materials

Safety Data Sheet

- “May form explosible dust-air mixture if dispersed”

German database (GESTIS-DUST-EX)

- Database for combustion and explosion characteristics

Laboratory testing of sample

- Hazard identification referencing from SS 667 or NFPA 660



Risk Evaluation – Dust Hazards Analysis (DHA)

DHA is a systematic review to identify and evaluate fire and explosion hazards, and identify control measures for risk reduction

The DHA, led by a competent person,

- Identifies hazardous scenario
- Provides a link between hazards and specific control measures

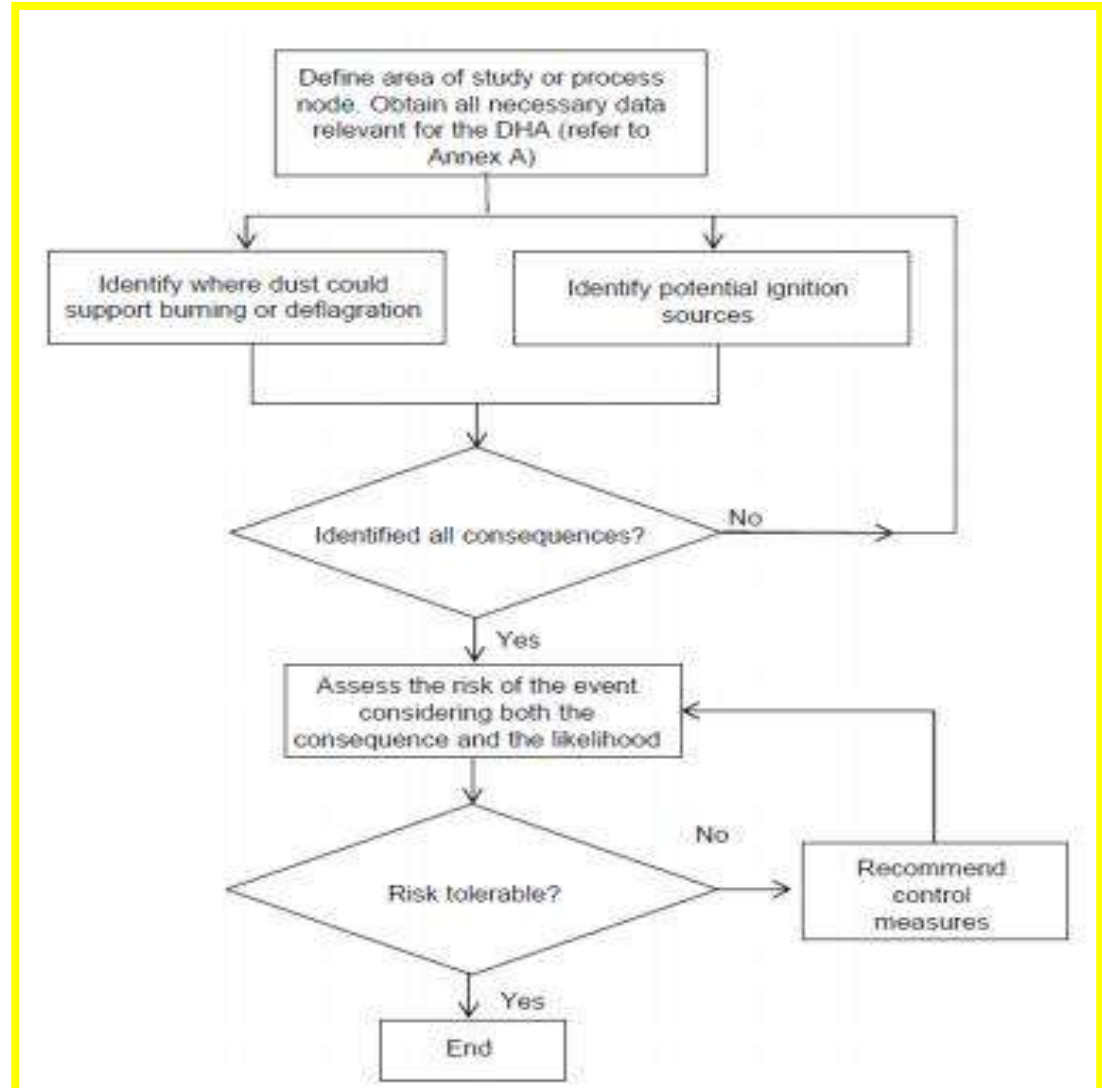
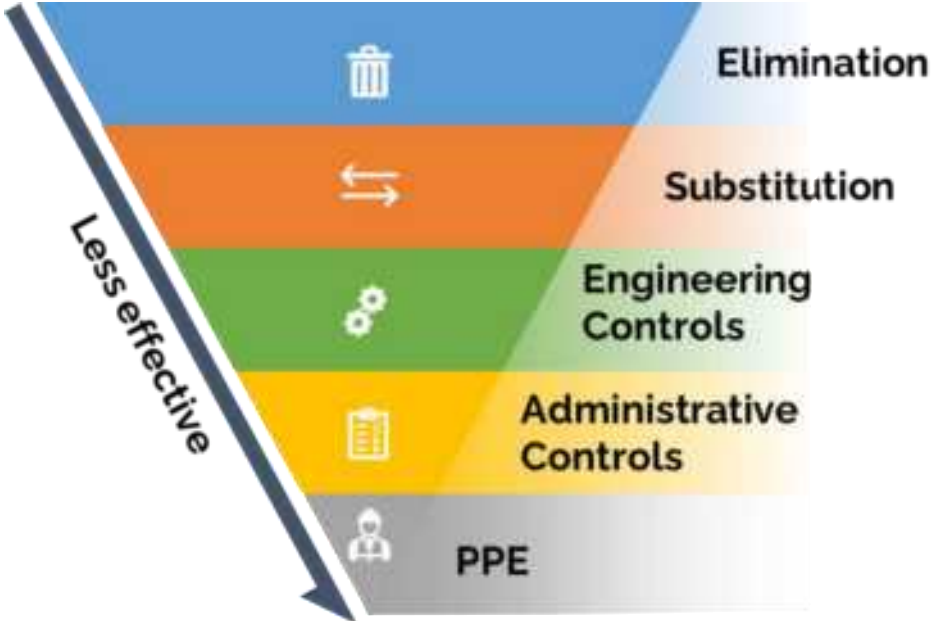


Figure 2 – Dust hazard analysis (DHA)



Preventing Dust Explosions

- To prevent dust explosions, workplaces can remove one or more elements from the pentagon
- Always aim for higher-level controls where possible
- Higher-level controls provide more reliable and sustainable protection
- Multiple controls can be used together for better protection



Control and Management of Combustible Dust

Enclosure

- Do not store materials in the open
- Enclose equipment with sufficient safety features to prevent combustible dust explosion

Dust control

- Local exhaust ventilation system (flame-proof)
- Proper housekeeping (no dry sweeping)

Ignition source control

- Effective grounding and bonding
- Use of non-sparking tools
- Use suitable flame-proof equipment e.g., flame-proof forklift, flame-proof dust collectors

Explosion prevention and protection

- Provide explosion vent
- Install spark detectors

Training

- Provide training on combustible dust hazard
- Communicate the precautionary measures to be taken

PPE

- Workers working with combustible dust to be equipped with necessary PPE e.g., fire retardant clothing, static dissipative safety shoes



EX-proof flood lights



ATEX rated vacuum cleaner



Grounding points



Bonding points



Flame-proof forklift



Case Study: Stars Engrg Pte Ltd



24 February 2021



Tuas, Singapore



Potato starch powder



3 fatalities, 7 injuries



Source: Report of the Inquiry Committee for the accident at Stars Engrg Pte Ltd on 24 Feb 2021



Case Study: The Production Process

Fire Clay Making

- Mixer machine to heat up water in mixing chamber.
- Add potato starch and other ingredients with heated water in mixing chamber till pasty consistency is achieved

Fire Clay Processing

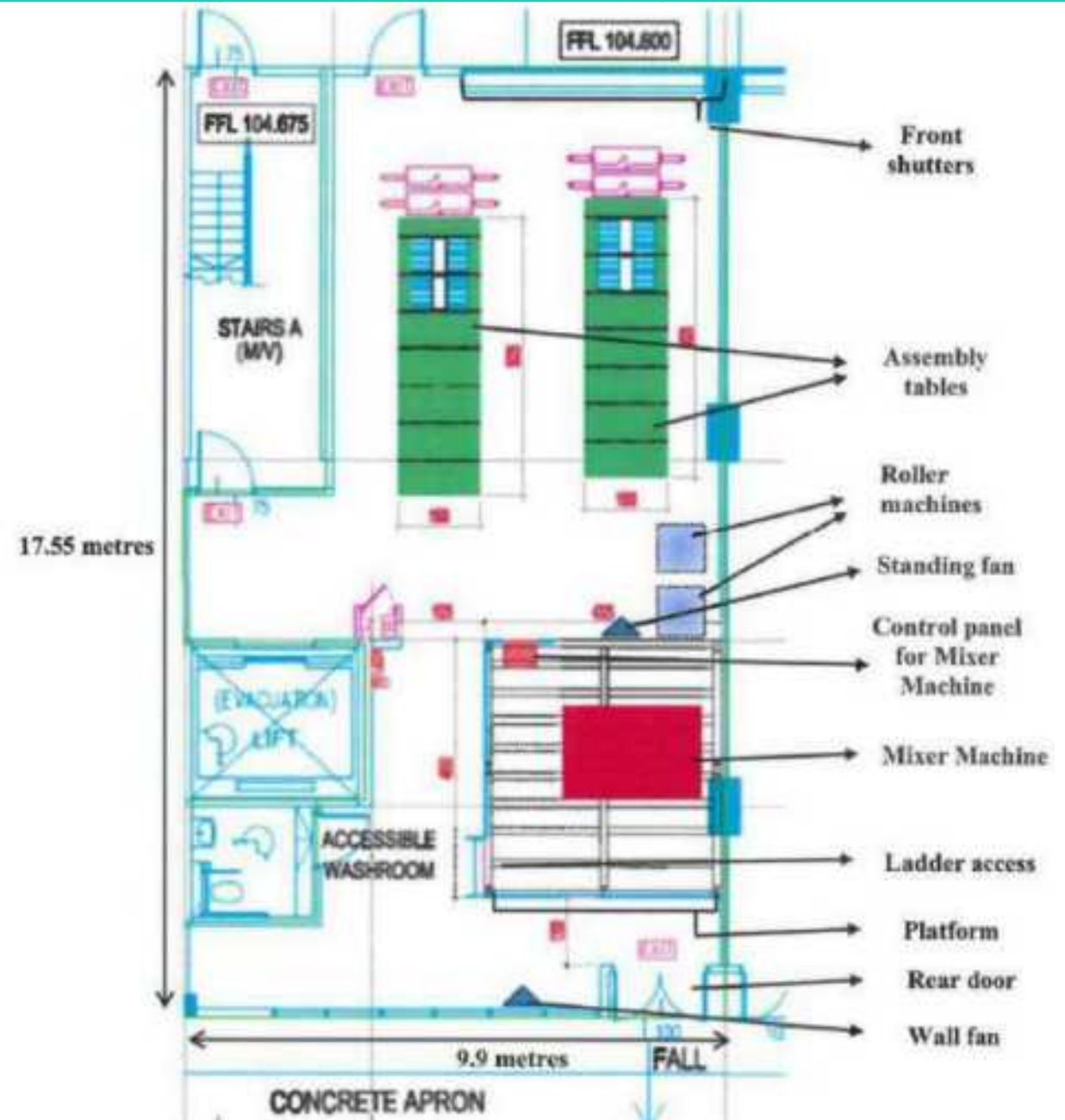
- Pour out fire clay from mixer machine and laid out on the platform and subsequently transfer to ground floor
- Workers flatten fire clay to 10mm with roller machine
- Passed to next roller machine to further flatten fire clay to 5mm

Fire Wrap Assembly

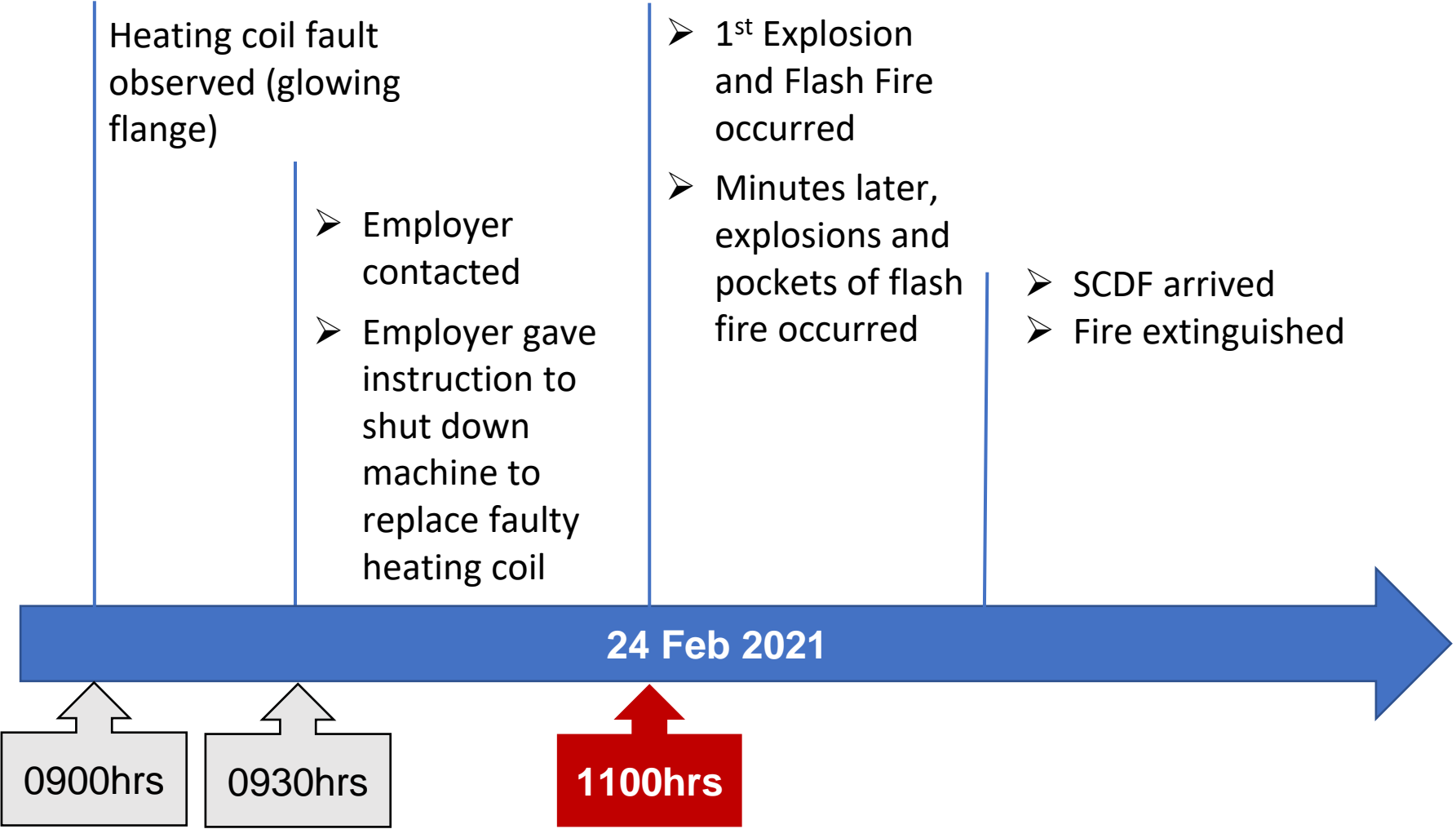
- Two sheets of aluminum roll are cut and taped to create a width of 1.1m for fire wrap
- Layers of fire clay and other ingredients are placed on the aluminum sheet
- The layers are enfolded with the plastic sheet and shrink-wrapped with heat

Case Study: The Layout

- The worksite measured about 17.55m by 9.90m
- Mixer machine and its control panel was placed on a raised platform
- 2 roller machines were located between the assembly tables and the platform
- 2 assembly tables were placed near the front shutters



Case Study: Sequence of Events



Case Study: Incident Analysis

- Mixer machine was used in overheated conditions as a closed system, leading to mechanical rupture
- Oil vapours were expelled and ignited due to the sudden rupture, leading to the **primary explosion** and the **subsequent secondary flash fires**.
- Secondary flash fires were most likely due to the ***combustion of potato starch powders***.



Source: Report of the Inquiry Committee for the accident at Stars Engrg Pte Ltd on 24 Feb 2021

Case Study: Aftermath of Incident



Case Study: Safety Lapses

- No risk assessment and safe work procedure for mixing activities and for use and storage of combustible dust
- No proper training provided to workers for safe use of mixer machine
- No emergency evacuation plan was developed
- No toolbox meeting was conducted to discuss general work activities or highlight hazards that workers were exposed to.
- Failed to provide a local exhaust ventilation system to prevent the accumulation of the combustible starch powders in the workplace
- Improper housekeeping methods by dry sweeping.
- No fire-resistant PPE provided to workers



Key Takeaways to Preventing Dust Explosions

- Never underestimate the risks of dust explosion – the consequences can be severe!
- Regular housekeeping is a simple and critical control measure for preventing and mitigating secondary explosions.
- Maintain the effectiveness of control measures, e.g.
 - Check protective equipment, including PPE; Oil stains affecting the effectiveness of fire resistance of overalls
 - Maintenance of engineering controls e.g. explosion prevention devices, ATEX equipment and grounding/bonding systems



Source: Dust Safety Science

Resources

- MOM webpage on safe use of machineries and combustible dust



- List of FAQs on machinery safety and combustible dust



- Upcoming WSH Guidelines on Combustible Dust



Resources

- Approved Codes of Practice
 - *SS 667 - Code of Practice for handling, storage and processing of combustible dust*
 - *SS 658 - Code of Practice for design, operation, testing, and maintenance of local exhaust ventilation systems*
 - *SS 537 - Code of Practice for safe use of machinery*
 - *SS 586 – Specification for Hazard Communication for hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods*
 - *Code of practice on Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Risk Management*
- WSH Guidelines on Management of Hazardous Chemicals Programme
- MOM Circular on Hazards and Controls of Combustible Dusts
- WSH Council Publication on 6 Basic WSH Rules for Handling Combustible Dust



Thank you

Empowered *workforce*, Thriving *workplaces*

Heat Stress Solutions for Marine and Offshore Energy Sector

15 May 2025

by Soh Zhen Yao

Manager, WSH Technology, Workplace Safety and Health Institute

soh_zhen_yao@mom.gov.sg



Ensuring Workplace Safety and Health @ Work

Vision

*A Healthy Workforce in Safe Workplaces;
A Country Renowned for Best Practices in Workplace Safety and Health*

Mission

To Prevent All Work-related Death, Injury & Ill-health

Occupational Safety And Health Division (MOM)



REGULATOR
Legislation, Policies & Enforcement



SOLUTIONING
Provide Data Insights, WSH Assessment Tools & Tech Solutions to Address Current & Emerging WSH Trends & Issues

Workplace Safety and Health Council



INDUSTRY PARTNER
Educate & Engage Stakeholders, Set Standards, Promote WSH

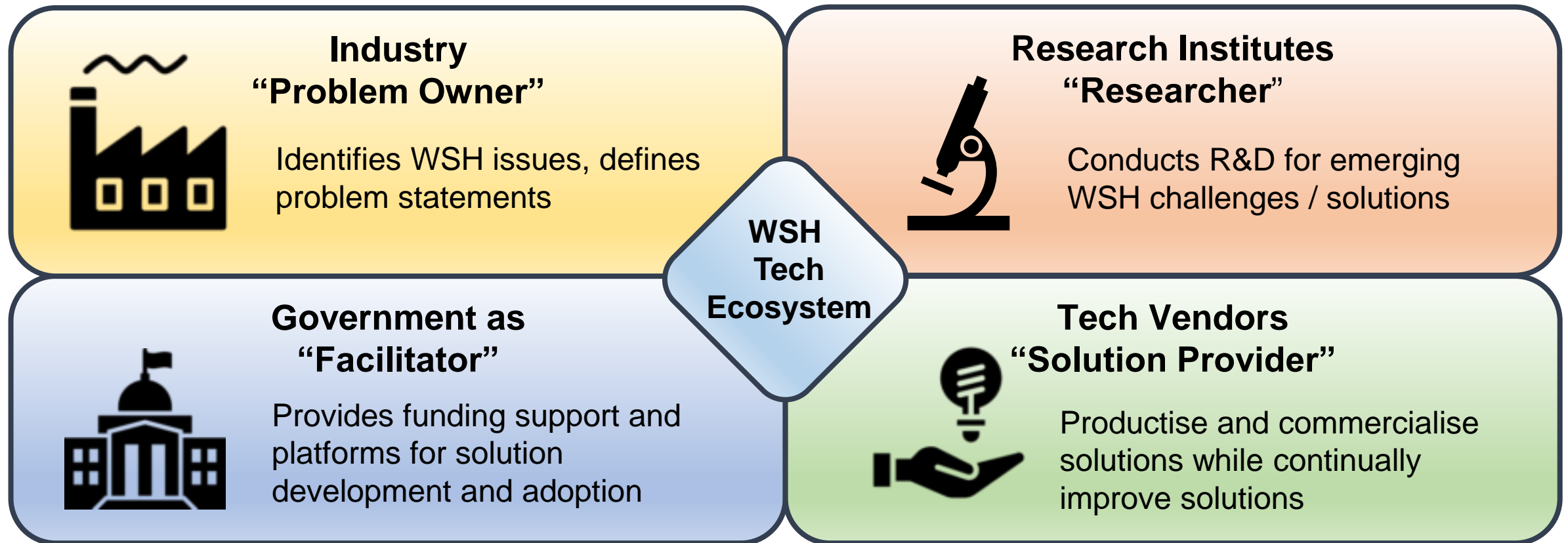
Promote technology-enabled WSH is one of the key strategies to achieve WSH 2028 goals

Reduce and sustain Singapore's workforce **fatality rate at less than 1 per 100,000 workers by 2028**, in line with the safest countries in the world.



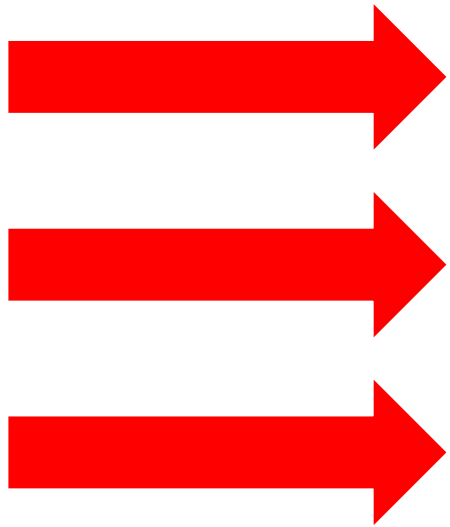
Partner key stakeholders to grow the WSH tech ecosystem in Singapore and scale adoption of mature WSH tech

WSHI works with different stakeholders in the technology ecosystem, based on technology readiness level of WSH solutions, and scale-worthiness of the tech.



What is heat stress and how does it occur

Heat stress occurs when the accumulation of heat in the body exceeds the body's ability to remove excess heat



Main heat gain mechanism

- Environment
- Metabolic heat



Heat accumulation > Heat removal

Dependent on workers' clothing, humidity and ventilation



Main heat loss mechanism

- Sweat evaporation

Heat stress can cause heat-related illnesses

Heat Exhaustion

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Irritability
- Thirst
- Heavy sweating
- Elevated body core temperature
- Decreased urine output
- Cramps (abdomen & limbs)
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Fast and weak pulse

Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke

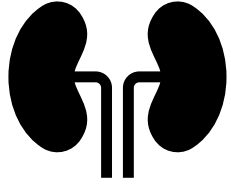


Heat Stroke

- Loss of consciousness
- Confusion, slurred speech
- Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating
- High body core temperatures (>40°C)
- Seizures
- Throbbing headache
- Rapid and strong pulse

Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given

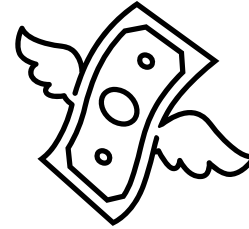
Other impacts due to heat stress at workplace



Working under heat stress can lead to chronic kidney disease with long latency periods



Worker productivity declines exponentially with each 1°C rise in wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT)



Companies face financial losses due to manhours loss and heat-related illness compensation claims



Mental fatigue from heat exposure increases the risk of workplace errors and accidents

Worker groups more susceptible to heat stress

1. **Unacclimatised worker:** new or returning workers from countries with cold climate
2. **Worker with history of heat injury:** they are more susceptible to future heat injuries
3. **Obese worker:** they have higher metabolic heat production and lower rate of heat loss
4. **Worker with medical condition/illness:** worker with chronic illness like heart disease or diabetes; or worker with acute illness like diarrhoea or respiratory infection are more at risk
5. **Worker on medication:** certain medication may interfere with normal hydration, affecting the body's ability to retain water
6. **Inexperienced worker:** worker may not know how to adapt to the pace of work in a new or hotter environment
7. **Highly motivated worker:** worker may ignore signs of heat stress until heat stroke occurs
8. **Worker with inadequate rest/sleep:** impaired decision making, and reduced ability to properly regulate heat when one is tired
9. **Worker with inadequate nutrition:** poor nutrition generally decreases one's immunity and affects heat tolerance
10. **Worker with low fitness level:** physiological strain is expected to be higher and body sweating mechanism may be less efficient

(Non-exhaustive)

Workers exposed to outdoor work or high temperature environments



Abrasive blasting



Thermal spray coating



Tank cleaning



Painting



Welding

First aid treatment for heat-related illness using the 7R approach

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Recognize symptoms | Recognise symptoms of heat stress and report early |
| Rest casualty | Get the worker to sit or lie down in a cool shaded area with good ventilation |
| Remove clothing | Loosen or remove excess clothing as appropriate (while preserving the modesty of the worker) |
| Reduce temperature | Reduce body temperature as fast as possible by applying ice packs, wet towels or cool water. Other measures include use of cooling blankets or subject the worker to cold water immersion. |
| Rehydrate | Rehydrate by providing fluids. Do not provide fluids by mouth if casualty is unconscious. |
| Resuscitate | If worker is unconscious, call for help immediately and resuscitate using the principles of cardiopulmonary resuscitation if first-aider is trained to do so. |
| Rush to hospital | Rush worker to the near hospital if the worker is unconscious. |

Tech solutions can augment current measures to better protect workers due to rising temperature



Two construction workers in King George's Avenue wear helmets secured with cardboard to shield them from the afternoon sun. ST PHOTO: SHINTARO TAY

Monitoring of environmental heat stress with WBGT meter

Who to monitor

Construction sites (with contract sums of \$5 million or more), shipyards and the process industry, are required to have a WBGT meter on-site for localised measurements.

Where to monitor

WBGT meter should always be located near work areas so that measurements will be representative of the environmental conditions that workers are exposed to.

Important points to obtain accurate readings

1. Check that WBGT meter is in good condition
2. Mount the WBGT meter on a tripod approximately one metre above ground level. Stay clear from the meter to prevent interference with the temperature and airflow sensors
3. After setting up, allow the meter to reach an equilibrium with environmental conditions before taking any readings.
4. WBGT meter should be placed under direct sun exposure and not blocked by buildings or shade.
5. Measurements should be taken at locations where ground surfaces are similar to areas where work is carried out.



Heat stress measures for adverse weather conditions



HEAT STRESS MEASURES FOR OUTDOOR WORK

MINISTRY OF MANPOWER

| Measures | Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) Bands | | |
|-------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| | WBGT (°C) < 31 <i>Below 31</i> | 31 ≤ WBGT (°C) < 33 <i>31 to less than 33</i> | WBGT (°C) ≥ 33 <i>33 and above</i> |
| Acclimatise | ● Acclimatise workers new to Singapore or returning from leave of more than a week and gradually increase workers' daily heat exposure over at least 7 days ^R | | |
| Drink | ● Provide cool or cold drinking water supply near work areas ● Rehydrate regularly ^R | ● Provide cool or cold drinking water supply near work areas ● Rehydrate at least hourly ^R <i>(Recommended intake of 300ml per hour or more depending on work intensity)</i> | |

Scan the QR code for details on heat stress measures for outdoor work



Ice slushies is an effective way to prevent heat stress

Ice slushies is :

- recommended under [WSH Guidelines](#) to induce greater internal cooling for workers on hot days
- proven in Sports science, and supported by NUS Project HeatSafe research and scientific papers

Effects of ice slushies – in consultation with A/Prof Jason Lee (Director, Heat Resilience and Performance Centre, NUS)

- **Improve heat tolerance**
 - ✓ More efficient than drinking cold water.
 - ✓ Ice particles within the body induces heat sink that cools the body core temp. by half a degree
- **Reduce risk of heat induced accidents**
 - ✓ Heat stress can lead to loss of focus and fatigue, poorer mental and physical performance.
- **Improve morale and work efficiency**
 - ✓ Workers with increased endurance are more productive.



WSHI's trial showed ice slushies were effective at mitigating heat stress and workers were receptive

SINGAPORE

LOG IN

Ice slurries one option being tested to keep construction workers cool



Workers at an outdoor construction site in Fishion have an ice slurry made from a dispenser during a break in July 2022. PHOTO COURTESY OF WSHE

Trial in July 2022

- i. >200 workers participated in 2-week trial
- ii. ~900L of ice slushies consumed
- iii. Less than 5% sugar

Results

- i. ~80% of workers said ice slushies helped their work
- ii. Workers:
 - found work less strenuous
 - felt cooler after consuming ice slushies
 - preferred ice slushies over other cold drinks

Source: [The Straits Times](#)

Slushies is not replacement for water hydration and should complement other heat stress measures

1. Effectiveness of ice slushies is about an hour

Distribute ice slushies during hotter periods of the day, as body core temperature would normalize within an hour.

2. Minimum serving size of 200 ml

A min. serving size of 200 ml is required to see effect. Ice slushies must be consumed in icy form for effectiveness.

3. Avoid high sugar content in slushies

High sugar content in slushies can have dehydrating effect. Hence sugary drinks are not suitable, e.g. soft drink and fruit syrups. Not all isotonic drinks have less than 5% sugar content.

4. Not replacement for water hydration

Workers should continue to drink water to stay hydrated. Water helps to rinse away sugar residue on teeth, which may lead to dental issues.

Cooling vests can lower risk of heat injury

Cooling vests is :

- recommended under [WSH Guidelines](#) to regulate the body temperature of workers in the safe range
- backed by scientific [research](#) and shown to result in lower rise of core body temperature and heart rate during physical activities.

Effects of cooling vests

- improved concentration and reduced fatigue, leading to fewer heat-related accidents and injuries
- increased heat tolerance, lowering risk of heat stress

Applications

- Worn during work to provide thermal comfort
- Worn during break to cool down and aid in recovery



Athletes



Outdoor workers








Workers in full body PPE



Confined space workers

5 types of cooling vest and their cooling effectiveness based on studies

| Cooling vest type | Liquid | Evaporative | Air | Hybrid (Evaporative + PCM) | PCM (Phase Change Material) inserts |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| Cooling mechanism | Heat transfer to cold circulating water | Saturated with water for evaporation to remove heat | Compressed cool air | Evaporation of water and heat transfer to PCM inserts | Heat transfer to PCM inserts |
| Illustration of cooling vests |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Increasing heat tolerance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| *Reducing exertion | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 |

*Effectiveness rating from 1 – 5, with 5 being most effective

Images: AlphaCool, Bullard

Cooling vest maintenance and upkeep

1. Recharging of cooling vests

Always ensure that the cooling vest is charged and ready before use. (e.g. freezing phase change material (PCM) inserts, recharging battery packs for powered cooling vests.) Follow manufacturers' instructions for recharging.

2. Cleaning and storage

Cooling components could be removed and recharged separately, and the vest itself could be handwashed with mild detergent and air dry completely before next use.

3. Visual inspection

Inspect the vests before each use to ensure that cooling components work properly, check for tears or loose stitching, check PCM inserts or water bladders for leakage. Replace damaged cooling components promptly.

4. Monitor cooling effectiveness

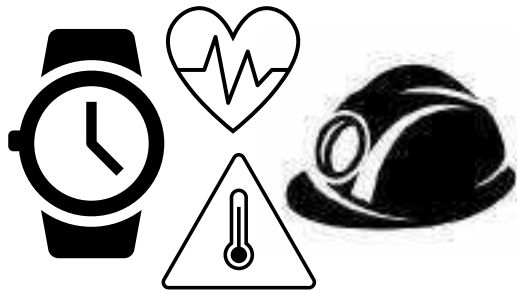
Replace cooling components promptly when cooling efficacy decreases

Smart wearables for heat stress monitoring

Smart wearables are equipped with sensors to continuously monitor vital signs (heart rate, temperature) to provide early warnings for workers at risk.

Wearable solutions such as smartwatches and smart helmets are integrated with safety management apps to offer real-time data transmission and automated alerts.

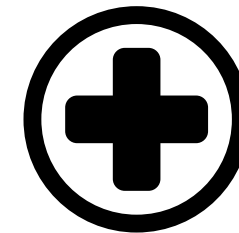
How it works



When a worker's heart rate is abnormal or body temperature exceeds specified threshold value



An alert is triggered in the system and supervisor is notified



Locate the affected worker and apply cooling measures as needed

Beyond heat stress monitoring, some wearables also carry location tracing, fall detection, geofencing features

Features

- Centralised dashboard for real-time monitoring
- Real-time alerts for workers and supervisors
- Early detection of heat stress symptoms and other irregularities (e.g. abnormal heart rate, worker standstill)
- Trend analysis capabilities
- Customisable alert thresholds



Other common safety features

- Worker location tracing
- Fall detection
- Panic button
- Geofencing alert for hazardous areas



Refresh pods improve recovery during rest breaks

Refresh pods and cold drinks: How Changi Airport helps workers beat the heat



Cool air is circulated within the refresh pod for about 30 minutes each time. PHOTO: CHANGI AIRPORT GROUP

Source: [The Straits Times](#)

Key Features

- Can accommodate up to 5 workers
- Cool air circulates within the pod for 3.5 minutes per cycle
- Doubles as a dryer for workers to dry themselves after rain exposure

Applications

- Suitable for large worksites with limited rest areas
- Can complement other preventive measures as part of a comprehensive heat stress management system

Benefits

- Improves rest recovery
- Improves worker morale and productivity
- Provides quicker access to cooling when needed

Robotic or drone-based solutions can reduce workers' exposure to environmental conditions



Welding robot



Hydroblasting robot



Confined space monitoring drone

Robotic solutions and drones can automate specific tasks, mitigating heat stress risks for workers.

Other benefits:

- Reduce worker exposure to other risks such as falling from height, exposure to hazardous gas, work-related musculoskeletal disorders
- Improved productivity, lesser manpower required and more cost effective in the long run
- Workers can be trained as robot operators for career development

NTUC Company Training Committee (CTC) Grant can provide funding support for industry adoption of heat stress solutions



Business outcomes

- Enhancement in business capabilities, and/or
- Productivity gains

Worker outcomes (for local workers: SC/SPR)

- Wage increase
- Recurrent skills allowance or one-time allowance
- Career development plan implementation

Company Training Committee (CTC) Grant supports entities that have formed CTC to implement transformation plans that would lead to better worker and business outcomes. Receive funding support of up to 70% of qualifying cost for each project.

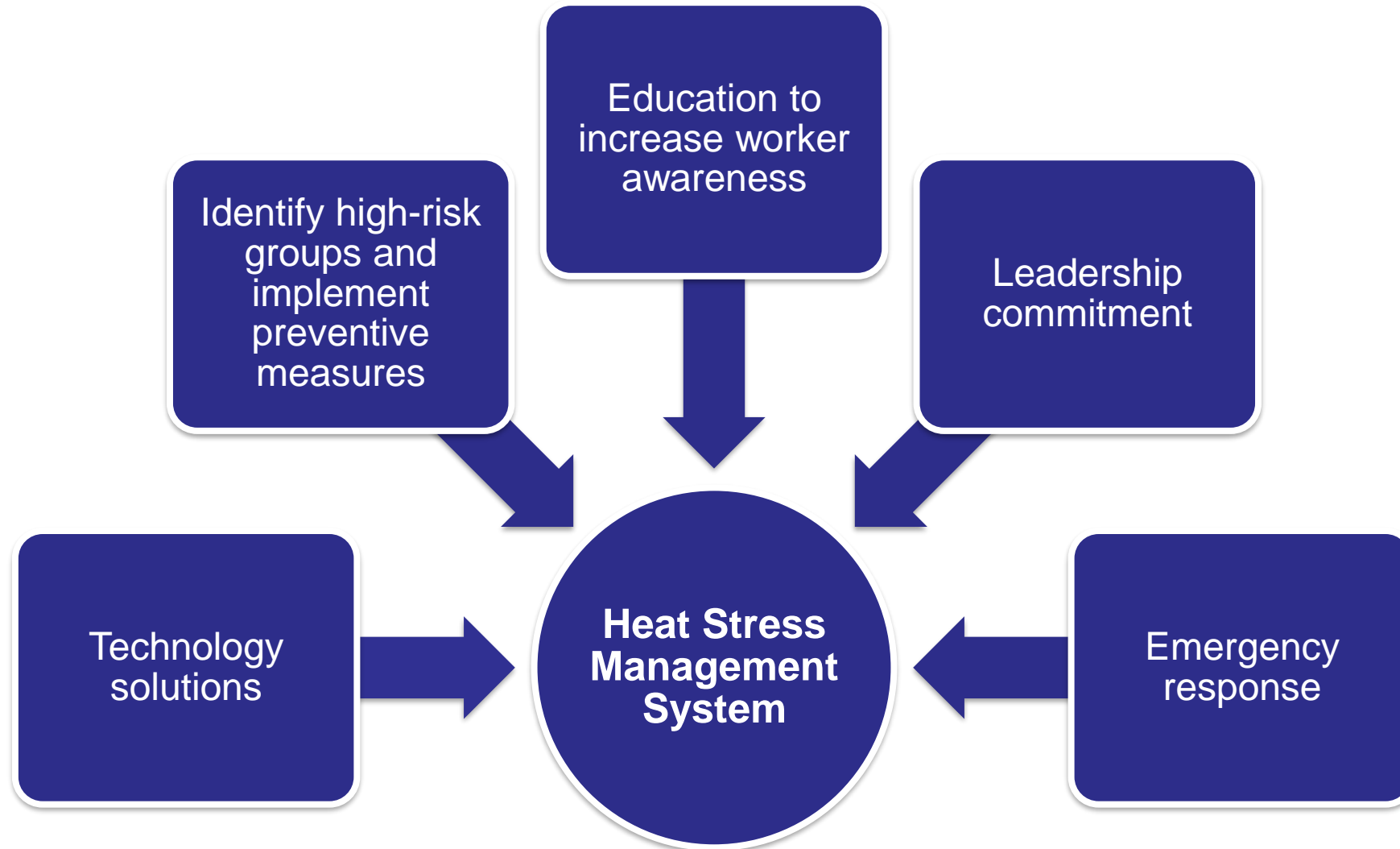
From 1 Aug 2024, projects that enhance WSH are recognised as enhancements to business capabilities, fulfilling the enterprise transformation criteria of the CTC Grant.

Scan QR code or click the link for more details



[NTUC Company Training Committee \(CTC\) Grant](#)

An effective heat stress management system incorporates various elements





Thank you

High-Risk Machinery: Cranes & Lifting Machines

ASMI 27th WSH Convention on 15 May 2025

Abdul Fadhil

Principal Specialist

OSH Specialist Department



*Empowered Workforce,
Thriving Workplaces*

Presentation Outline

1. Common Types of Lifting Machines
2. Overview of Regulatory Framework for Lifting Machines based on Life-cycle Approach
 - a. Import
 - b. Installation
 - c. Operation
 - d. Dismantling & Storage
3. Lessons Learnt from Past Incidents
4. Key Takeaways

Common Types of Lifting Machines



Types of Lifting Machines

- Tower crane
- Mobile crane (crawler, lorry, wheeled, etc.)
- Fixed crane (pillar, gantry, overhead, portal, etc.)
- Piling machine
- Lifting platform (MEWP, MCWP etc.)

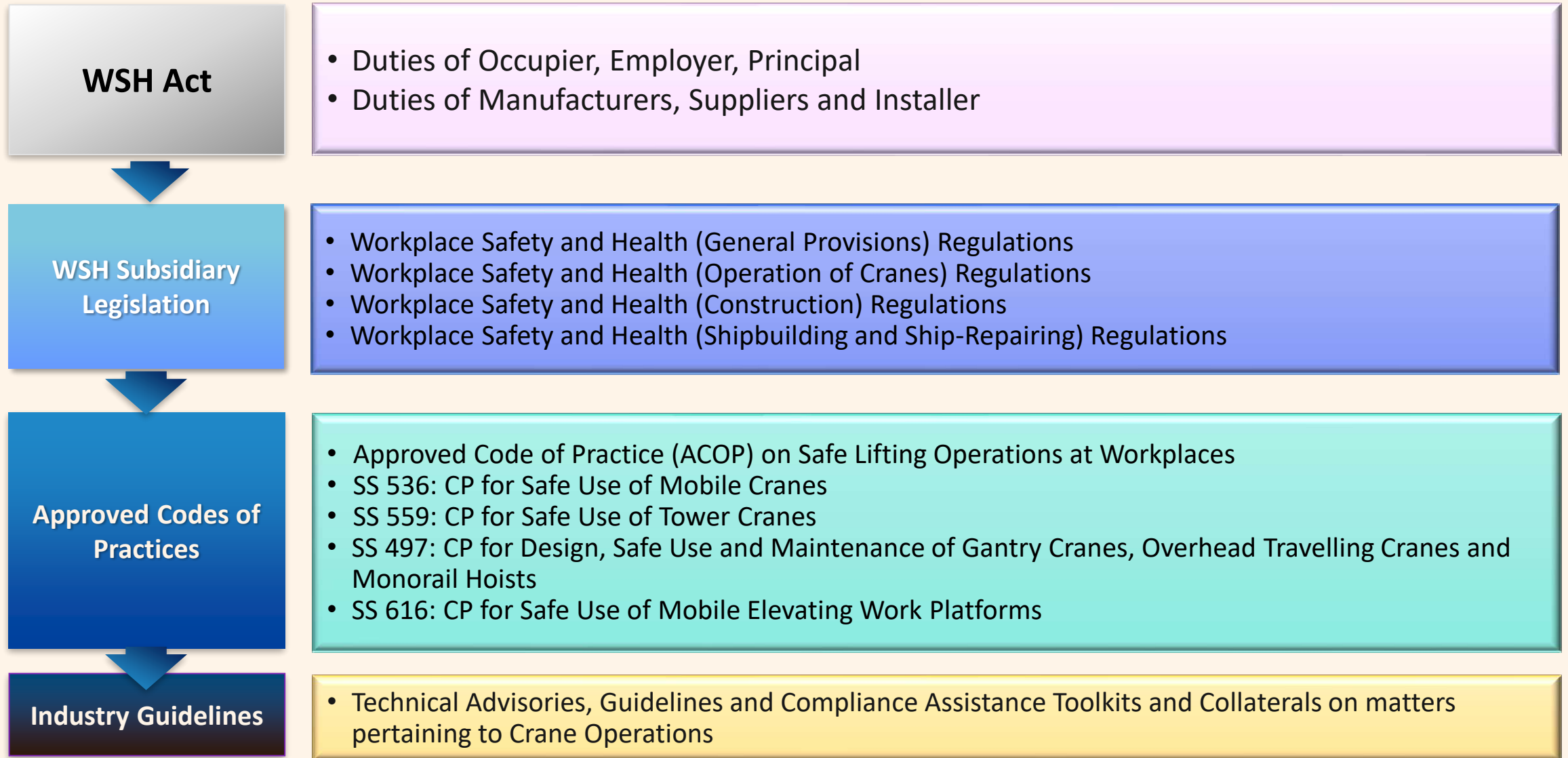
Lifting
Machine
(LM, LP, R21)



Overview of Regulatory Framework in SG



Regulatory Framework for LE in Workplaces



A Life Cycle Approach

WSH Regulatory Framework

- Adopts a **Life Cycle Approach**; from Import → Installation → Operation & Maintenance → Dismantling & Storage

- Manufacturers & Suppliers
- Owners

- Occupiers
- Owners
- Equipment Contractors

- Occupiers
- Owners
- Operators / Users
- Equipment & Maintenance Contractors
- Competent Persons

- Occupiers
- Owners
- Equipment & Maintenance Contractors

Import

Installation

Operation & Maintenance

Dismantling & Storage



Import of Lifting Equipment



Import for Use

- Manufacturers & Suppliers

• Section 16 of WSH Act

- **Information about the safe use** is available for use at work
- **Equipment is safe** & without risk when properly used
- **Tested & examined** that it is safe

Installation



- Approved Crane Contractors
- Occupiers
- Owners

- Section 17 of WSH Act
- Safe erection / installation
- Registration of LE

Registration Requirements

- All lifting equipment must be registered before use.
- The owner must engage an Authorised Examiner (AE) to register the lifting equipment.
- The AE will
 - Conduct the necessary tests and examinations;
 - Register the lifting equipment;
 - Submit a lifting equipment examination report; and
 - Issue the certificate of test and examination.

Registration Requirements



WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

CERTIFICATE OF TEST AND EXAMINATION OF LIFTING EQUIPMENT¹

LE Registration No.
LM0000000Z

Max. Safe Working Load
10000 kg

Certificate Expiry Date
15/04/2026



OWNER AND WORKPLACE DETAILS

OWNER NAME : Crane Experts Pte. Ltd. OWNER UEN : 202399996Z
WORKPLACE ADDRESS : MK00-00000X at Tripartite Way WORKPLACE NO. : 202399996Z0001

PARTICULARS OF LIFTING EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT CLASS : 551 Fixed Crane - Tower Crane (Horizontal Boom) OWNER'S REFERENCE / VEHICLE REG. NO. : TC1
MAX. BOOM LENGTH / SPAN : 20.0 m
BRAND AND MODEL : Tower Lifter A10T FLY JIB / EXTENSION LENGTH : 5.0 m
DISTINCTIVE NO.² : TLFTR1234 ENERGY SOURCE : Electricity
YEAR OF MFG : 2023 REGISTRATION DATE : 26/07/2023
COUNTRY/REGION OF MFG : Singapore TYPE APPROVAL NO. : TCA23999

LAST LOAD TEST DETAILS

| | Maximum Test Load (kg) : 12500 | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| Load Test Date : 16/04/2025 | | | | | | |
| Radius (m) : | 5.0 | 20.0 | | | | |
| Test Load (kg) : | 12500 | 1250 | | | | |
| Safe Working Load (kg) : | 10000 | 1000 | | | | |

COMMENTS / OBSERVATIONS

Safety devices tested and found to be in good working condition.

I certify that on 16/04/2025 the lifting equipment described in this certificate was examined thoroughly by me, as far as its construction permits, and that the above is a true report of my examination.

I further certify that the lifting equipment is found to be in compliance with the requirements stipulated in the Workplace Safety and Health Act and its subsidiary legislation, and is safe for use.

AUTHORISED EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE³

Digitally signed by

JOSEPHINE TAN

14 Apr 2025, 12:00:00 AM SGT

Explanatory Notes

¹ Lifting Equipment refers to lifting gear, lifting appliances, lifting machines, lift and hoist as defined under the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations.

² Distinctive No. refers to the identification or serial number assigned to the equipment by the manufacturer.

³ This certificate is digitally signed and current status of the lifting equipment is verifiable through the QR code.

Circular No: MOM/OSHD/2023-05: WSH e-Services System with Enhanced Features for Management of LE

- Addition of Registration Summary
- Digitally signed-off by AEs w/o wet-ink signatures or company/personal stamps
- Hardcopy of original certificates replaced with e-version
- QR code to MOM's webpage

Registration Requirements

| REGISTRATION SUMMARY | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Registration No. : | LM0000000Z |
| Statutory Equipment Type : | Lifting Equipment |
| Owner Name : | Crane Experts Pte. Ltd. |
| Brand and Model : | Tower Lifter A10T |
| Distinctive No. : | TLFTR1234 |
| Scan for Details : |  <p>LM0000000Z</p> |

This is a computer-generated document that requires no signature.

Contact MDM at 6438 5122 or mom_oshd@mam.gov.sg for any clarification or feedback.

A Singapore Government Agency Website (www.mam.gov.sg)



Registration Status of Statutory Equipment

View on mobile app: MOM22-STAT-EQ

Lifting Equipment Particulars

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Lifting Equipment Reg No.: | LM000000Z |
| Statutory Equipment Classification: | 851 Fixed Crane - Tower Crane (Rotational Tower) |
| Brand and Model: | TOWER LIFTER A10T |
| Distinctive No.: | TLFTR1234 |
| Owner Name: | CRANE EXPERTS PTE. LTD. |

Workplace Details

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Workplace Name: | CRANE EXPERTS PTE. LTD. |
| Workplace Address: | MARLBOROUGH TERRACE, SINGAPORE |

Statutory Examination Details

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Last Examination (by OES/MAM/MS): | 15/04/2023 |
| Approved Supervisor Name: | JOSEPHINE TAN |
| Next Due for Examination (by OES/MAM/MS): | 15/04/2024 |
| Next Due for Renewal (by OES/MAM/MS): | 15/04/2023 |
| Maximum Safe Working Load (kg): | 10000 |
| Status: | Working |

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Operation & Maintenance



- Occupiers, Employers, Principals, Owners
 - Lifting Personnel
 - Contractors, Competent Persons
-
- Safe operation - Mandatory RA, SWP, PTW, lifting plan, compliance with MOM Circulars
 - Mandatory training - crane operator, lifting supervisor, rigger, signalman
 - Maintenance in accordance with manufacturer instructions
 - Mandatory inspections by AEs

Risk Assessment & Safe Work Procedures

- WSH (Risk Management) Regulations: Employer, Self-employed Person, Principal
- **Continuous** process of evaluating the probability and consequences of injury or illness from exposure to an identified hazard and determining **appropriate** risk control measures.
- **Specific** to the work activity (e.g. mob/de-mob, installation/dismantling, lifting operation) and equipment used.
- Review and revise once every 3 years or where there is significant **change in work practices or procedures.**



Risk Assessment & Safe Work Procedures

Examples of hazards associated with cranes and lifting machines:

- Struck by falling objects;
- Struck by machines or moving parts;
- Collision of machines
- Crushing;
- Overturning of machines;
- Parts failure; etc.

- WSH (Operation of Cranes) Regulations: Responsible Person, Lifting Plan
- **Any** lifting operation involving the use of **any crane**
- **Specific** to the lifting operation and crane used. In accordance with **principles of safe and sound practice.**

Planning for Lifting Operations

- **Factors** affecting safe lifting operations:

- Machine
- Material
- Medium
- Man
- Method

- **Elements** of a lifting plan include:

- Personnel involved;
- Load;
- Rigging methods;
- Equipment (SWL and working radius);
- Physical and environmental factors;
- Means of comms;
- Sequence/special precautions;
- Sketch of zone of operation, etc.

Planning for Lifting Operations

Appendix 1: Sample of Basic Lifting Plan / Permit-To-Work

1. General

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Project | | | |
| Location of lifting operation | | | |
| Contractor carrying out the lifting operation | Date/time of lifting operation | | |
| | Validity period of lifting operation | | |

2. Details of the load/s

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Description of load/s | |
| Overall dimensions | |
| Weight of load | Kg / ton |
| Centre of gravity | <input type="checkbox"/> Obvious |

3. Details of the Lifting Equipment/ Lifting Gear

| | |
|--|--|
| Type of lifting equipment | |
| Maximum SWL as certified on the LM cert. | |
| Max boom / jib length | |
| Intended load radius | |
| Type of lifting gear/s | |
| Combined weight of the lifting gear/s | |
| SWL of LG | |

4. Means of Communication

| | |
|---|---|
| Can the operator see the loading and unloading? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| What are the means of communication between? | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard hand signals <input type="checkbox"/> Radio |

5. Personnel Involved in Lifting Operation

| Position | Name | Qualification/ Experience |
|--|------|---------------------------|
| Site Supervisor | | |
| Lifting Supervisor | | |
| Crane Operator/ Lifting Equipment Operator | | |
| Rigger | | |
| Signaller | | |
| Other (please state) | | |

6. Physical and Environmental Conditions (please include any details in the space provided)

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Ground conditions | Is the ground made safe (e.g., placing steel plate)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Are the outriggers evenly extended? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Obstacles | Are there any overhead obstacles such as power lines? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Are there nearby buildings or structures, equipment or stacked materials that may obstruct lifting operation from being carried out safely? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Lighting | Is the lighting condition adequate? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Demarcation | Has the zone of operation been barricaded (with warning signs and barriers) to prevent unauthorised access? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Environment | Do not proceed with the lifting operation under the following circumstances: | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Thunderstorm and lightning strikes in the area. The ground condition must be checked after a thunderstorm. | |

It is recommended that you include the initial location of the load, the final location and path of the load. It is also important to indicate any obstructions or equipment that may obstruct the lifting operation.

Specific to the lifting operation

Planning for Lifting Operations



<https://www.tal.sg/wshc/resources/publications/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-on-safe-lifting-operations-in-the-workplaces>

Compliance with MOM Circulars

MOM/OSHD/2024-07



MOM/OSHD/2024-07

3 JUL 2024

To: Lorry Crane Owners
Lorry Crane Authorized Agents
Authorized Examiners (Lifting Equipment)
All Interested Parties

MANDATORY INSTALLATION OF STABILITY CONTROL SYSTEM IN NEW LORRY CRANES

Lorry cranes¹ are frequently used in proximity of public areas. If lifting operations are not properly managed, this can potentially cause severe impact to both workers and members of the public. However, due to space or operational constraints, full extension of lorry crane stabilisers may not always be possible. Therefore, this can compromise safety of lifting operations. Stability control system is a proven technology that can prevent toppling of lorry cranes in such situations.

ADVANTAGES OF A STABILITY CONTROL SYSTEM

2. A stability control system is designed to detect the deployment and extension of each stabiliser of a lorry crane, subsequently calculating and restricting crane movements within a safe lifting cone. By installing a stability control system, the risk of overturning of a lorry crane can be effectively minimized. This allows for safe

IMPLEMENTATING STABILITY CONTROL SYSTEM IN NEW LORRY CRANES

3. From 1 Jan 2025, the Ministry of Manpower will require new lorry cranes² registered under the following lifting equipment classification codes to be installed with an acceptable type of stability control system.

- i. 631 Lorry Loader – Telescopic Boom
- ii. 632 Lorry Loader – Articulating Arm
- iii. 633 Lorry Loader – Telescopic Boom and Articulating Arm
- iv. 638 Lorry Loader – Recovery Truck³
- v. 639 Lorry Mounted Cranes, n.e.c.

4. The stability control system installed in new lorry cranes from 1 Jan 2025 shall determine the rated capacity of the crane by continuously monitoring the deployment and extension of every stabiliser, outreach and position of the crane. The stability control system shall reduce the rated capacity or stop all manoeuvres if stabilisers are not sufficiently deployed, ensuring that the crane remains stable while in operation.

¹ Loader cranes mounted on a vehicle chassis, as depicted in Annex A, are commonly referred to as lorry cranes.

² Refers to lorry cranes that are registered for the first time with the Ministry of Manpower. Existing lorry cranes that are subsequently re-registered due to change in ownership are excluded.

³ Stability control system will be mandatory for recovery trucks only if installed with loader cranes.

Compliance with MOM Circulars

MOM/OSHD/2024-04

Circular: Mobile Crane Load Test



MOM/OSHD/2024-04

17 APR 2024

To: Authorised Examiners (Lifting Equipment)
Crane Owners
Project Developers
Occupiers of Workplaces
All Interested Parties

MOBILE CRANE LOAD TEST

1 Under regulation 21(1) of the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations, no lifting machine shall be used unless an authorised examiner has:

- (a) Tested and examined the lifting machine¹, and

operations. The crane, including all its load-bearing components², must be load tested in the different configurations it will be used in. Load tests on mobile cranes are to be conducted before any use, should any one of the following scenarios occur:

- (a) Whenever there is any disassembly and assembly of the mobile crane (including first use)
- (b) Any replacement, addition, alteration, modification to the mobile crane's use of load-bearing components or attachments (except for swing away fly jib stowed on mobile crane's boom)
- (c) An increase in the maximum Safe Working Load
- (d) After a major repair
- (e) Lying dormant more than one year
- (f) Re-registration to a new owner
- (g) At least once every four years (from the date of last load test)

3 The authorised examiner must ensure that:

- (a) the crane is load tested at its minimum working radius to verify the maximum Safe Working Load (SWL),
- (b) the crane is load tested at its maximum working radius to check the crane's stability,

by the manufacturer as stated in the manufacturer's load chart, and

¹ Workplace Safety and Health Circular No. MOM/OSHD/2020-01 "EXAMINATION AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR STATUTORY LIFTING EQUIPMENT" issued on 18 Jun 2020.

² Such as main hook, auxiliary hook, fly jib and booms of different lengths.

³ Workplace Safety and Health Circular No. MOM/OSHD/2023-01 "Testing 'Load Testing of Cranes' issued on 14 Nov 2023. For changing of wire ropes, refer to SS 536-2023 for details of inspection and load test.

Compliance with MOM Circulars

MOM/OSHD/2024-04

(d) the configurations the load test was conducted for (such as fly jib, main hook, auxiliary hook, whichever are applicable) are clearly stated on the certificate of test and examination.

4 The authorised examiner may conduct additional tests as necessary to validate load test results. He/she is however, not permitted to reduce or replace stipulated tests in the preceding paragraph.

5 After the load tests, the authorised examiner must examine the crane to check that there are no visible cracks, permanent deformations or damages, loose or damaged connections, or other visible conditions that could affect the function and safety of the crane.

Updating the Crane's Load Chart

6 If the crane is not load tested to its full operation or capacity range as stated in the manufacturer's load chart, the authorised examiner shall make the necessary revisions to the crane's load chart to clearly show the permitted operation and capacity range based on the test loads conducted, and communicate this information to the crane owner. The load chart shall be made available to the crane operator e.g. displayed in the crane's cabin.



JAIME LIM
for Commissioner for Workplace Safety and Health
Occupational Safety and Health Division
Ministry of Manpower

| Date of Issue: | Classification: | Circular No: |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 17 APR 2024 | Lifting Equipment | MOM/OSHD/2024 - 04 |

Compliance with MOM Circulars

MOM/OSHD/2019-03

Circular: Do not bypass or override safety devices of Mobile Cranes



MOM/OSHD/2019-03

22 Nov 2019

Do not Bypass or Override Safety Devices of Mobile Cranes

It has come to MOM's attention that some safety devices such as overload, hook over-hoist, boom over-hoist or over-lowering limiter installed in Mobile Cranes¹ had been intentionally bypassed or overridden without proper authorization during lifting operation. MOM warns all parties that such practices are dangerous and unacceptable. MOM reminds all Crane Operators, Lifting Supervisors, occupiers, owners of Mobile Cranes, and personnel involved in lifting operation that it is an offence under the Workplace Safety and Health (AMSO) Act to bypass or override such safety devices without proper authorization.

Implementation of Authorisation System for Overriding of Safety Devices

2 This circular calls for the implementation of the following Authorisation System for overriding of safety devices on Mobile Cranes excluding Lorry Loaders:

- For Mobile Cranes with key-operated bypass switches, the bypass keys shall be kept within an access-controlled area by an authorised person at all times during lifting operations. Any request for use of the bypass key shall be assessed and permitted only after prior approval is granted by the authorised person.
- For Mobile Cranes with non-key-operated bypass switches or keys that cannot be removed from the switches, the bypass switches shall be enclosed within a secure housing that can be locked. The key to this lock shall be kept within an access-controlled area by an authorised person at all times during lifting operations. Any request for use of the key shall be assessed and permitted only after prior approval is granted by the authorised person.
- Crane Operators shall ensure that all bypass switches are set to the "off" position at the start of each work-shift, or before access to the bypass switches has been locked out, and
- Lifting Supervisors shall check and ensure that all bypass switches in Mobile Cranes are set to the "off" position at the start of each work-shift.

Active Monitoring of Data Logger Reports for Unsafe Acts

3 Occupiers, crane owners and employers are strongly encouraged to review the data logger reports regularly to monitor and assess the lifting operations for any anomaly or unsafe situation. If an unsafe act or non-compliance involving the overriding of safety device(s) is detected, the occupiers, crane owners or employers shall conduct an investigation and take necessary remedial actions to prevent recurrence.

Duty-holders to Ensure Safe Operation of Mobile Cranes

4 MOM would like to remind all persons, including Crane Operators, that the activation of any bypass switch in the crane to override safety devices during lifting operations and for lifting of loads beyond the safe working load of the crane are strictly prohibited. Under Regulation 21(7) of the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations, lifting appliances and lifting machines can only be loaded beyond their safe working loads when directed by an Authorised Examiner or an inspector for the purpose of testing such lifting appliance or lifting machine.

5 The above circular is for immediate compliance.

¹ Mobile cranes means a crane mounted on a truck, crawler or on wheels and tracks and crane of a type shown in the First Schedule of the Workplace Safety and Health (Operation of Cranes) Regulations 2011.

Compliance with MOM Circulars

MOM/OSHD/2019-03

Circular: Do not bypass or override safety devices of Mobile Cranes



MOM/OSHD/2019-03

22 Nov 2019

Do not Bypass or Override Safety Devices of Mobile Cranes

It has come to MOM's attention that some safety devices such as overload, hook over-hoist, boom over-hoist or over-lowering limiter installed in Mobile Cranes¹ had been intentionally bypassed or overridden without proper authorization during lifting operation. MOM warns all parties that such practices are dangerous and unacceptable. MOM reminds all Crane Operators, Lifting Supervisors, occupiers, owners of Mobile Cranes, and personnel involved in lifting operation that it is an offence under the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Act to bypass or override such safety devices without proper authorization. MOM will not hesitate to take stringent enforcement action against any person who willfully bypass or override such safety devices on Mobile Cranes.

Implementation of Authorisation System for Overriding of Safety Devices

2 This circular calls for the implementation of the following Authorisation System for overriding of safety devices on Mobile Cranes excluding Lorry Loaders:

- For Mobile Cranes with key-operated bypass switches, the bypass keys shall be kept within an access-controlled area by an authorised person at all times during lifting operations. Any request for use of the bypass key shall be assessed and permitted only after prior approval is granted by the authorised person.
- For Mobile Cranes with non-key-operated bypass switches or keys that cannot be removed from the switches, the bypass switches shall be enclosed within a secure housing that can be locked. The key to this lock shall be kept within an access-controlled area by an authorised person at all times during lifting operations. Any request for use of the key shall be assessed and permitted only after prior approval is granted by the authorised person.

at the start of each work-shift.

Active Monitoring of Data Logger Reports for Unsafe Acts

3 Occupiers, crane owners and employers are strongly encouraged to review the data logger reports regularly to monitor and assess the lifting operations for any anomaly or unsafe situation. If an unsafe act or non-compliance involving the overriding of safety device(s) is detected, the occupiers, crane owners or employers shall conduct an investigation and take necessary remedial actions to prevent recurrence.

the crane to override safety devices during lifting operations and for lifting of loads beyond the safe working load of the crane are strictly prohibited. Under Regulation 21(7) of the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations, lifting appliances and lifting machines can only be loaded beyond their safe working loads when directed by an Authorised Examiner or an inspector for the purpose of testing such lifting appliance or lifting machine.

5 The above circular is for immediate compliance.

¹ Mobile cranes means a crane mounted on a truck, crawler or on wheels and tracks and crane of a type shown in the First Schedule of the Workplace Safety and Health (Operation of Cranes) Regulations 2011.

Mobile crane or tower crane

- No person shall operate a mobile crane (not being a lorry crane) or tower crane unless he is a registered crane operator.
- 2-year validity
- Medical exam requirements (≥ 50 years)

Lorry crane

- No person shall operate a lorry crane in a workplace unless he has successfully completed a training course acceptable to the Commissioner.
- 5-year validity

Training Requirements

Overhead, gantry, pillar or portal crane

- Operator to attend a customised training conducted by the manufacturer or supplier of the equipment or a competent person authorised by the manufacturer to conduct the training.
- Maintain details of training records.

MEWP

- Operator to attend and pass a MEWP training course conducted by MOM ATP specific to the type of MEWP (BL, SL, VPP)
- Familiarisation training on model of MEWP
- 5-year validity

Training Requirements

Lifting supervisor

- Successfully complete a training course acceptable to the Commissioner to equip the person to be a lifting supervisor.
- To be appointed before any lifting operation involving the use of **any crane**.

Rigger & signalman

- Successfully complete a training course acceptable to the Commissioner to equip the person to be a rigger/signalman.
- To be appointed before any lifting operation involving the use of **any mobile crane or tower crane**.
- While not mandatory to be appointed for other cranes, the persons carrying out the required work (i.e. rigging and signalling) shall be **trained and competent**.

Training Requirements

Refer to WSH (Operation of Cranes) for respective duties of crane operator, lifting supervisor, rigger and signalman.

Maintenance of Lifting Equipment

WSH (General Provisions) Regulations:

(16) It shall be the duty of the owner of a lifting appliance or lifting machine to ensure that it is —

- (a) of good mechanical construction, sound material and adequate strength; and
- (b) properly maintained.

| | |
|---|-----|
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6 MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

This chapter has been compiled for maintenance personnel who have been designated by the contracting company to keep the crane in normal operating condition. The maintenance personnel will obtain an overview of all essential maintenance and inspection tasks stipulated in the maintenance and inspection chart.

Especially:

- check the good working order of the crane components.
- carry out the periodically checking.
- carry out the adjustments.
- identify and repair the malfunctioning or failures.
- carry out the greasing.

All maintenance and inspection measures can be planned individually using the interval specifications.

This part does not comprise instructions in order to carry out:

- repairs requiring a specific tool or which must be carried out in the workshop.
- important operations like overhauling, repairing.

6.1 Lubrication

The lubrication table recommends the type of lubricant to be used and the different lubrication points. Lubricate thoroughly and regularly, since lubrication carried out according to our lubrication helps to prevent failures and premature wear.



- Any repair and maintenance work must only be carried out after the crane has been set out of service.
- Clean grease nipples and oil drain plugs before lubricating work.
- Only the correct use of suitable high-quality lubricants as recommended by a specialist supplier will ensure maximum performance and avoid failure and their consequences.
- Only use high quality brand-name lubricants.

Maintenance of Lifting Equipment

| Maintenance/inspection intervals | Task to be performed |
|---|--|
| Check when starting up the crane and before every erection. | Slewing ring①: Grease the ball track and gear teeth |
| | Check the wire ropes and rope end fittings |
| | Check the hook② |
| | Telescoping equipment③: Grease the Pins and guide section rollers |
| | Check the twist compensator during every erection |
| | Grease all Pins during every erection |
| | Check each framework part and connective part |
| | Check each electric control implement and security implement |
| | Check the quality and quantity of the oil in the reducer of hoisting mechanism |
| Check the quality and quantity of the oil in the climbing mechanism | |
| Daily check | Slewing mechanism ② brake |
| | Trolley mechanism ③ brake |
| | Hoisting mechanism ① brake |
| | Travelling mechanism brake |
| | Rope release implement |
| Weekly maintenance | Slewing ring①—Grease the gear teeth, see Fig. 6-1 |
| | Check the electric control implement, cable and electric wire |
| | Check the security implement (load moment limiter, load limiter, trolley limiter, slewing limiter, hoisting limiter) |
| Monthly maintenance | Grease the wire ropes |
| | Grease the rope pulleys |
| | Grease the winch drum bearing |
| | Fill with hydraulic oil in the climbing pump station |
| | Inspect the high-tensile bolt connections 1 month after erection |
| | Travel gear: Grease the wheel bearings and the inside face of the flanges |
| | Hoisting gear①: Fill the reducer with Oil |
| | Check the stability of the vital framework, important weld and connection parts (bolts and pins) |

| Maintenance/inspection intervals | Task to be performed |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Half-yearly maintenance | Grease all lubricating nipples |
| | Check the twist compensator |
| | Motor bearing: change oil after 1500 operation hours, once a year at least |
| Yearly maintenance | Inspect the high-tensile bolt connections and grease the bolt |
| | Check the hook⑥ |
| | Check freedom of the movement of the hinged joint of front window of the cabin and lubricate it regularly |
| After 2000 operation hours | Oil change in the reduction of slewing mechanism② |
| | Oil change in the reduction of hoist mechanism① |
| | Oil change in the reduction of trolley mechanism⑤ |
| | Oil change in the brake of hoisting mechanism ① |
| | Oil change in the trolley travel reducer |
| | Oil change in climbing mechanism④ after 2400 operation hours |

Dismantling and Storage



- Occupiers
- Approved Crane Contractors
- Manufacturers & Suppliers
- Owners

- Safe dismantling by approved crane contractors
- Proper storage

Lessons Learnt from Past Incidents



Case 1 : Crawler Crane

The crane was positioned between 2 vessels. After lifting a pipe onto 1 vessel, the operator was slewing the crane to face the yard when the boom collapsed backwards.

For the boom and fly jib to avoid colliding with the vessel, the crane had to be operated at a minimum radius of about 7.5m. However, the minimum radius that the crane could function was 8.5m.

- Inadequate planning
- Use of bypass limit switch

Case 2 : Mobile Crane

After completing a lifting operation, the operator retracted the boom. About 30 mins later, he was instructed to relocate the crane to another lifting area.

The operator then retracted the outriggers when the boom was about 60 deg. He accidentally slewed the boom to the side, causing the crane to overturn.

- Failure to extend outriggers
- No proper procedures for mob/demob

Case 3 : MEWP

2 workers were using a boom lift to perform grit blasting works when the 2nd boom section of the boom lift buckled at a point near the end of the 1st boom section.

- Inadequate RA
- Poor maintenance regime, use of standard checklist not aligned with manufacturer's instructions on internal components.

Key Takeaways

- Regulatory framework for LE is based on a **life-cycle approach**:
 - Import → Installation → Operation & Maintenance → Dismantling & Storage
- Associated **hazards** include:
 - Struck by falling objects, machines or moving parts
 - Crushing
 - Overturning of machines
 - Parts failure.
- **Preventive** actions are critical safeguards
 - Adequate planning prior to lifting
 - Safety checks
 - Management of lifting operations
 - Maintenance schedules
 - Training and competency

Thank you



Tripartite Alliance for
Workplace Safety and Health

Staying Afloat: Selection, Inspection, Use, and Maintenance of Life Jackets



15 May 2025

Capt Mohd Salleh A Sarwan

Co-Chair

Working Group (Personal Flotation Devices)

Workplace Safety and Health Council

Key takeaways

- **Selection:** Choose life jackets suited to different work environments.
- **Inspection:** Conduct a pre-use visual inspection to ensure the life jacket is in good condition and can be relied upon in the event of an emergency.
- **Use & Maintenance:** Apply good practices for proper life jacket usage and upkeep.

Case Studies 1

Technician fell into the sea while crossing from tanker to service boat using an accommodation ladder

Accident Description

- On 17 May 2022, a technician fell overboard when he disembarked from a tanker to a service boat.
- He went out of sight and his body was recovered four days later.

Accident Findings

- The technician was wearing a manually inflated life jacket, but it was not inflated at the time of accident.
- It is unclear if the technician was disoriented or in a state of panic, unfamiliar with how to manually inflate the lifejacket, or influenced by the misleading label, which included instructions for both manual and automatic activation lifejacket.

Case Studies 2

Shore technician fell into the sea when disembarking a vessel to board a launch boat using a pilot ladder

Accident Description

- On 16 February 2021, while disembarking from a vessel to board a launch boat via a pilot ladder, a Shore Technician (ST) fell into the sea.
- The ST was brought out of the water after some time and was sent to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Accident Findings

- The lifejacket worn by the ST may have been equivalent to life jacket of performance level 100, meant for sheltered or calm waters.
- The life jacket was unsuitable for non-swimmers, stated in the manual.
- The ST carried a backpack of about 8kg, which might have affected the ST's ability to stay afloat.

Case Studies 3

Worker drowned after falling into river

Accident Description

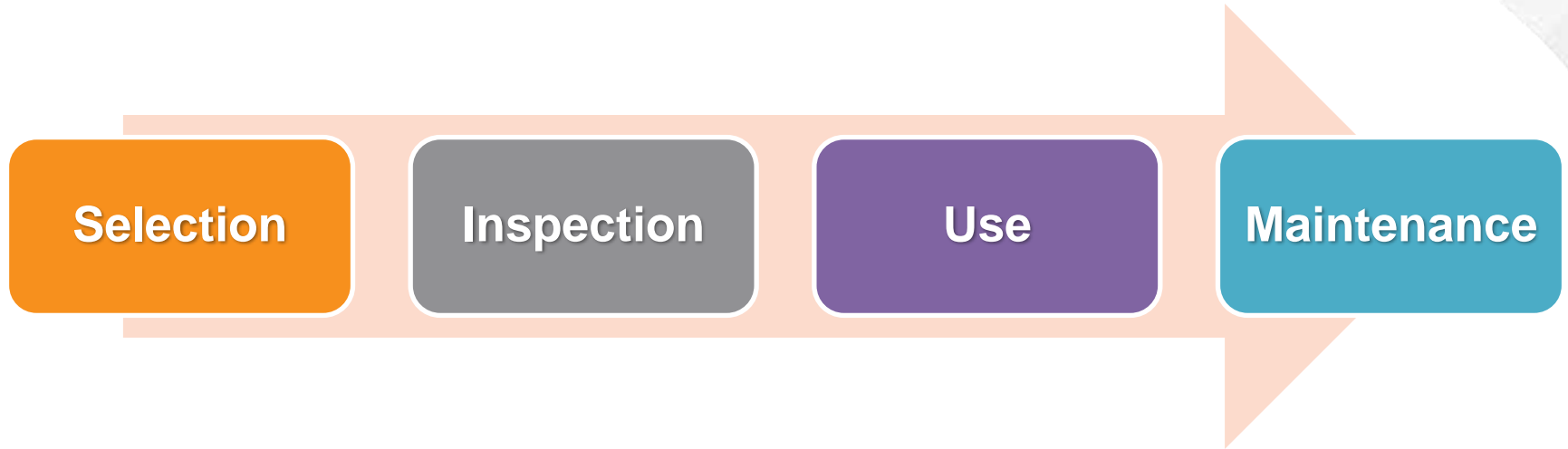
- On 12 March 2019, two river cruise workers were on night shift duty to berth and charge the electric boats at the jetty.
- One of them was found missing and his body was found floating on the water 16 hours later.

Accident Findings

- The worker did not know how to swim and was not wearing a life jacket.
- The worker likely exited the work area through an unsafe path.

Managing Life Jackets

Systematic Approach



Selection

Introduction

- Personal Flotation Device (PFD), when correctly worn and used, provides buoyancy and increases the likelihood of survival should a person fall into water.
- Life jacket is a type of PFD.
- The life jacket maintains the user in a face-up flotation position, with various levels of performance suitable for sheltered and non-sheltered waters.
- Types of life jacket:
 - Foam Type
 - Automatic/ Manual Gas Inflation Type

Selection

Performance Level

- Employers and life jacket users are advised to conduct a thorough risk assessment that is specific to their nature of their work before selecting a life jacket of appropriate performance level for the work activity.

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Performance level <i>(determined using risk assessment)</i> | 100 | For use in sheltered or calm waters (e.g., swimming pools, reservoirs, or ponds). Not suitable for rough water condition or when there is wave splash. |
| | 150 | For use in non-sheltered (e.g., anchorages), rough or offshore waters. |
| | 275 | For use in offshore under severe weather or sea conditions. |

Selection

Mandatory ISO 12402 life jacket accessories

| Performance Level | Reflective Material | Whistle | Lifting Loop |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------|--------------|
| 100 | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| 150 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 275 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Inspection

Examples of defective or worn life jackets

- Discoloured and torn foam life jacket
- Damaged stitches on an inflatable life jacket
- Corroded gas cartridge

Use

Ensure Life Jacket is of a Good Fit

- Choose the right size life jacket
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to put it on
- Adjust the straps for a snug fit
- Ensure no more than a fist's width between your body and the buckle.

Maintenance

- To prolong the lifespan of a life jacket, clean it before storage and to store it in an environment that does not cause the life jacket material(s) to degrade; e.g., to air-dry the life jacket in a well-ventilated area.
- To ensure that the life jacket is reliable and functions properly during emergencies, regular life jacket maintenance (specified by the manufacturer) is crucial.
- Inflatable life jackets typically need yearly servicing at an authorized service station.

For more information, refer to:

- Workplace Safety and Health Act
- WSH (General Provisions) Regulations
- WSH (Risk Management) Regulations
- Code of Practice on Workplace Safety and Health Risk Management
- Code of Practice for Working Safely at Heights
- ISO 12402: 2020 Personal Flotation Devices (Life jackets and Buoyancy Aids)
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974
- LSA Code - International Life-Saving Appliance Code – Resolution MSC.48(66)
- Maritime And Port Authority's Guidelines for Safe Transfer of Persons Between Vessels at Anchorages
- WSH Council's Guide to WSH for Service Providers on Safe Working on Ships at Anchorages
- WSH Council's Guide to WSH Obligations for Shipmasters and Contractors for Anchorage Works
- WSH Council's Case Studies on Working in and Around Water
- SS 701:2023 Code of Practice for inland and open water sporting activities

Thank you



Supporting the Marine & Offshore Energy Sector for Workforce & Business Transformation



**#EVERY
WORKER
MATTERS**

**MEMBERS FIRST
WORKERS ALWAYS**



Supporting Workforce and Business Transformation With Total Training & Placement Solutions

Speaker: Mr Ivan Lee, Assistant Director, NTUC Training and Transformation

For more information, visit our website by scanning
the QR code or email to
ivan_lee@ntuc.org.sg

www.bitly.com/NTUCT&T



Find out more here

Sectorial Collaboration with ASMI – SMEEU supported by NTUC Training & Placement Ecosystem

M&O Capability Building Roadmap



Marine & Offshore Transformation Initiative (MOTI)

- Marine Décarbonisation Champion
- Marine Digitalisation Champion

Youth Mentorship Programme



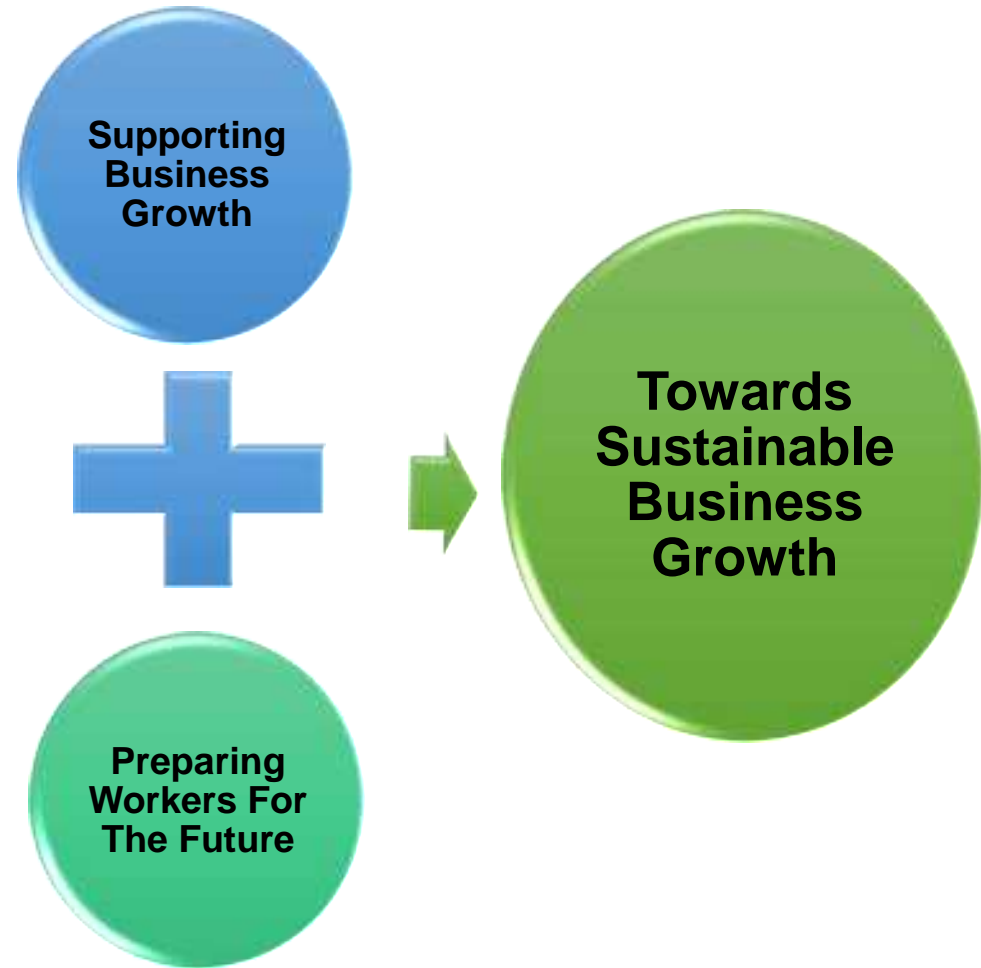
Here are some of the success stories made possible by CTC...

Company Training Committee (CTC) Partnership

Partnership between Company and NTUC to:

- **Develop roadmap** for growth and transformation
- **Upgrade capabilities** and **redesign jobs**
- **Upskill workforce** for business and industry changes
- **Leverage tools and resources** for implementation

To-date, over 2700 Companies have embarked on CTC partnership with NTUC.



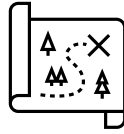
NTUC Training and Placement Ecosystem

Supporting Companies and Workers in Business and Workforce Transformation

Strategy Planning

Assess readiness and develop robust transformation plans through

Operation and Technology Roadmap (OTR)



Skills Training

Build competencies in line with business and industry needs with **customised learning solutions and funding support**



Capabilities Upgrade

Enhance productivity and redesign jobs through **Company Training Committee (CTC) Grant**



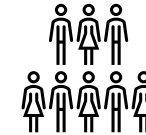
Job Matching

Attract and match suitable talent from within and across sectors, with **career conversion programmes**



Bipartite Partnership

Strengthen labour management partnership to support transformation, with **customised labour-management programmes**



NTUC Training and Placement Ecosystem

Powered by:



Assess Your Organisation's Readiness to Transform and Achieve Sustainability Goals

Through ESG Assessment for Sustainability Transformation (EAST)



ESG Assessment for Sustainability Transformation – EAST (Full Assessment)



Scan to register

For companies who wish to have a comprehensive assessment with **ESG Certificate and Performance Benchmark** (for large companies only), you may scan to register for **EAST (Full Assessment)**.

NTUC Sustainability Team / Grant Thornton will follow up on the administration process.



Assess Your Organisation's AI Maturity & Readiness

Through **AI Readiness Index (AIRI)**



What is AI Readiness Index (AIRI)?



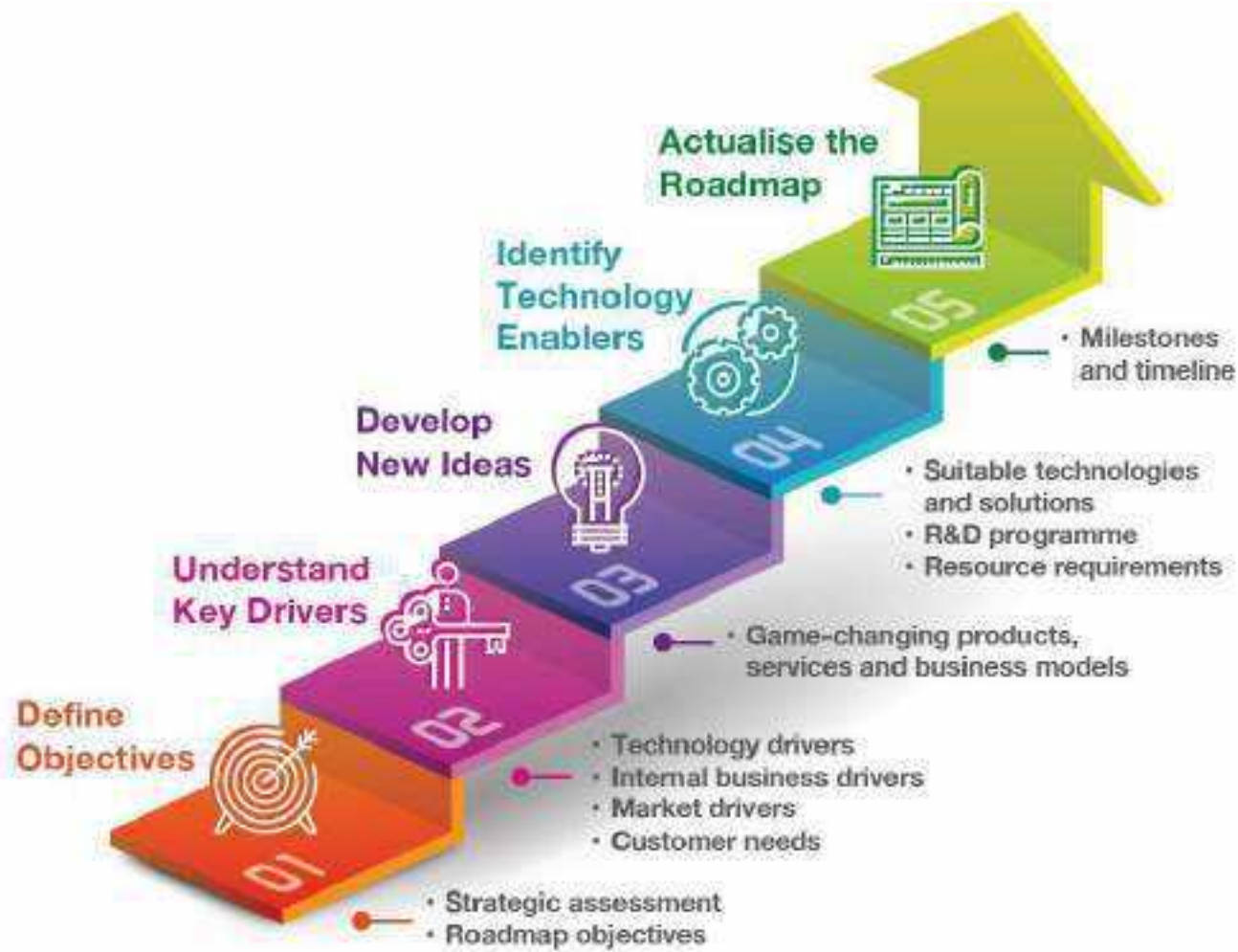
- An industry-focused AI readiness assessment framework developed by AI Singapore (AISG)
- AIRI crystallises and distils the critical success factors for AI adoption across different industries, sizes, and AI readiness
- NTUC and AISG partners to support organisations to **understand current situation and identify ways to begin AI transformation, regardless of where the organisation is**

Co-Create Business & Workforce Transformation Plan Through **Operation & Technology Roadmap (OTR)**



Developing a Customised Transformation Roadmap at Company Level

Leveraging Operation & Technology Roadmap (OTR) Methodology



- Ensures that investment in growth and upgrade is of **strategic value**
- **Build collective ownership** cross-functional company management and union leaders / workers representatives
- **Structured planning workshops** facilitated by Industry Training Officers (ITOs)
- **Fully subsidised** for companies with Company Training Committee (CTC) partnership

Your Transformation Support Journey



CTC Partnership

Formalise partnership between your business and NTUC to transform business and upgrade workforce



AI Readiness Index (AIRI)

Assessment and joint planning on leveraging AI to upgrade operations and workforce



ESG Assessment for Sustainability Transformation (EAST)

Assessment and joint planning on transforming sustainability and meeting ESG goals



Operation & Technology Roadmap (OTR)

Develop a holistic future-ready roadmap with drivers, new strategy, products / services and new capabilities



Check-In

Discussion on your business priorities

Where We Are Today

How Should We Move Forward?



Capabilities Upgrade

Tap on funding and resources to bring in new technologies, redesign jobs and upskill workforce

TAP ON THE NTUC CTC GRANT FOR YOUR TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

What is the NTUC CTC Grant?

The NTUC CTC Grant supports companies that have formed CTCs to implement transformation plans that will lead to better worker and business outcomes. It provides funding support of up to 70% of the qualifying cost for each project, for items such as equipment, software, consultancy etc.

Who can apply for the NTUC CTC Grant?

Entities¹ legally registered or incorporated in Singapore i.e. companies, societies, non-profit organisations such as charities and social service agencies are welcome to apply.

What are the objectives that the transformation project needs to achieve?

1. Enterprise transformation: Enhanced business capabilities, innovation and/or productivity.
2. Workforce transformation: Improved employment outcomes for local workers (SC/SPR) through efforts such as job redesign. Commitment to worker outcomes include:
(i) wage increase; and/or (ii) implementation of Career Development Plan (CDP) for staff.

¹ Government bodies, statutory boards, organs of state and wholly-owned subsidiaries are not eligible.

What Can Be Supported Under the Grant?

Components can be supported if they are related to the transformation project, achieving business and worker outcomes.

They include:



- 👍 **Equipment**
- 👍 **Software**



- 👍 **Consultancy**

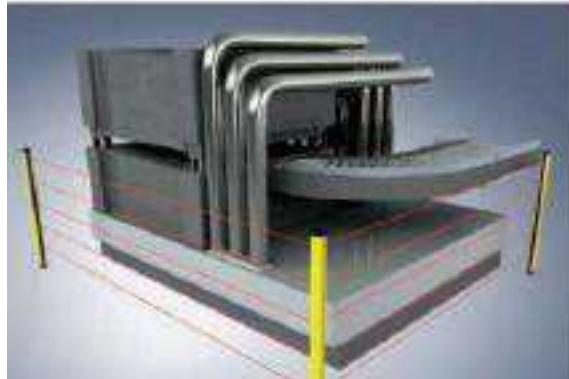
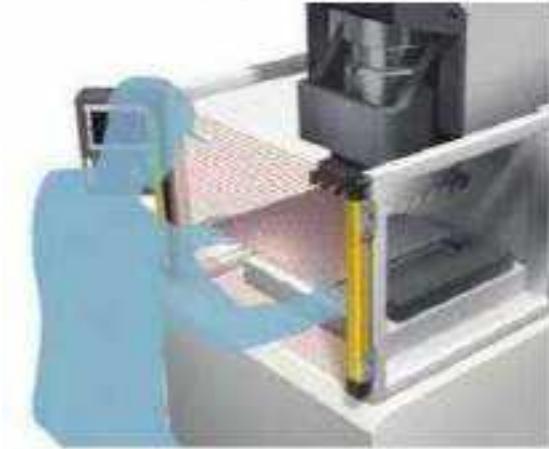


- 👍 **Training**

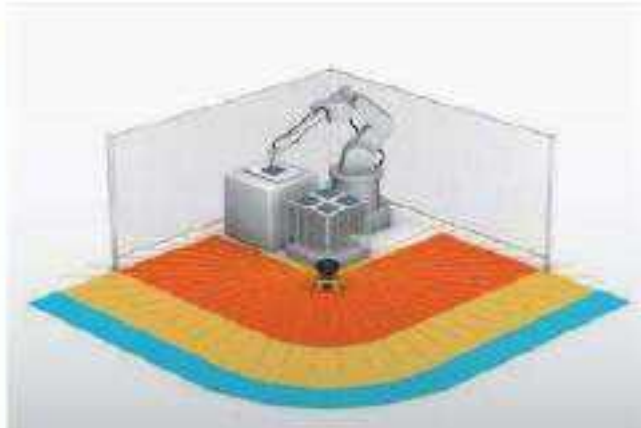
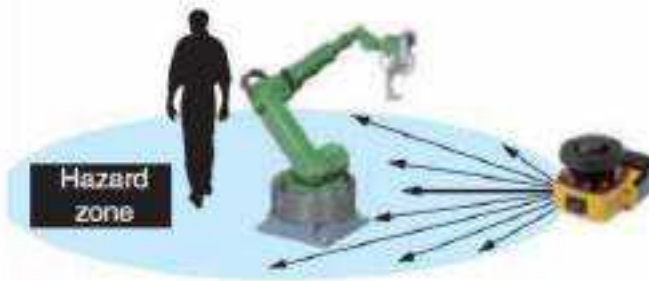


CTC Grant for Machine Barrier Solutions

Safety light curtains



Safety laser scanners



Fences with Interlock devices



-adapted from WSH Institute

CTC Grant for Video Analytics

Example of VA scenarios

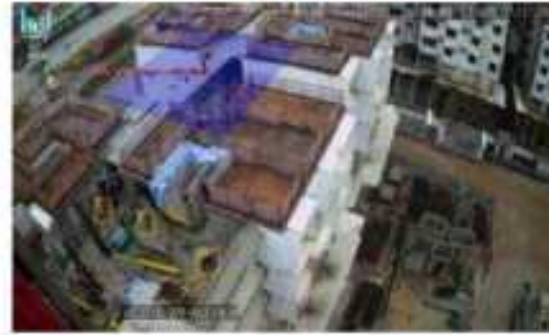
Geofencing



PPE detection



Open edge detection



Worker under lifting load



Smoke detection



Worker near vehicle or machinery



Slips, Trips and Falls



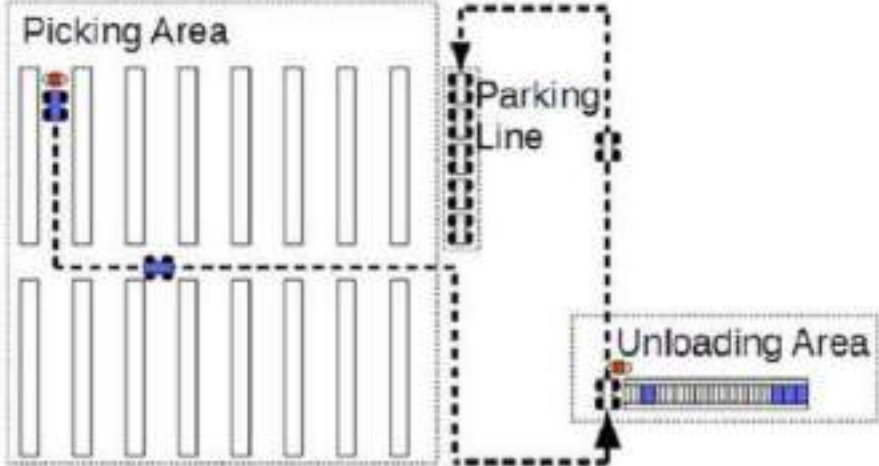
Housekeeping



-adapted from WSH Institute

CTC Grant for Robotic Solutions

Lifting pallet goods without on-site human operators



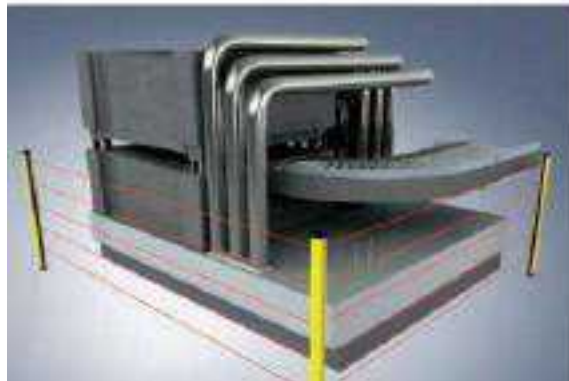
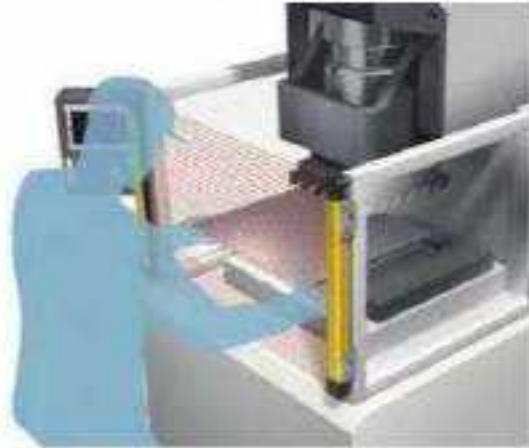
Source: TAG Industrial



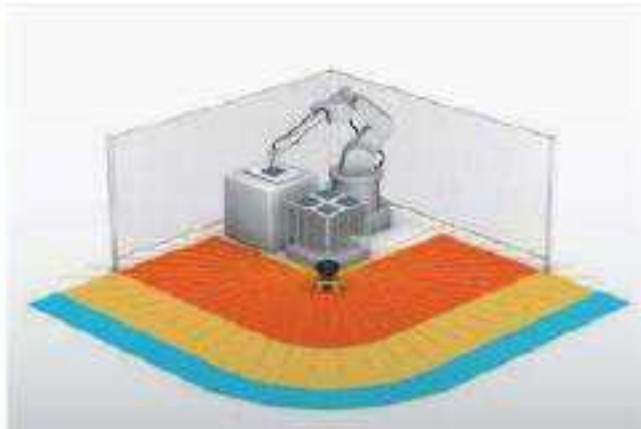
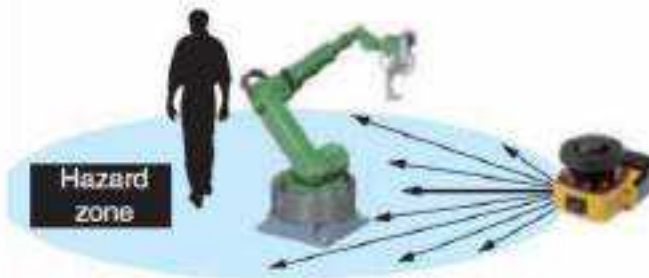
-adapted from WSH Institute

CTC Grant for Machine Barrier Solutions

Safety light curtains



Safety laser scanners



Fences with Interlock devices



-adapted from WSH Institute

Many M&O Companies Supported By NTUC Through CTC Partnership...





Thank You

**#EVERY
WORKER
MATTERS**

**MEMBERSFIRST
WORKERSALWAYS**

WSH Performance and Common WSH Contraventions for Marine Industry

ASMI 27th WSH Convention

Mr. Dzul Fazly, Senior WSH Inspector, Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate

Contents

- **Duty Holders under the Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSH Act)**
- **WSH Performance for Marine Industry**
- **Top Contraventions**
- **Case Study**

**Duty
Holders
under
WSH Act**

Duty Holders under WSH Act for Marine Industry

The Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSHA) came into effect on 1 March 2006, replacing the former Factories Act



Key Principles

Reduce Risks at Source

Impart Greater Industry Ownership of WSH Outcomes

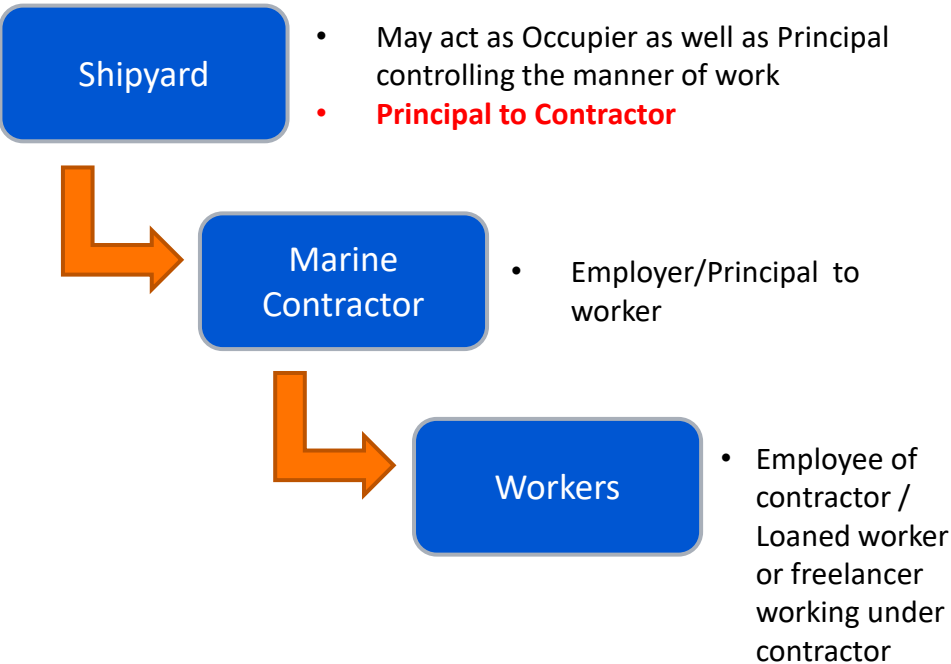
Prevent Accidents through Higher Penalties for Poor WSH Management



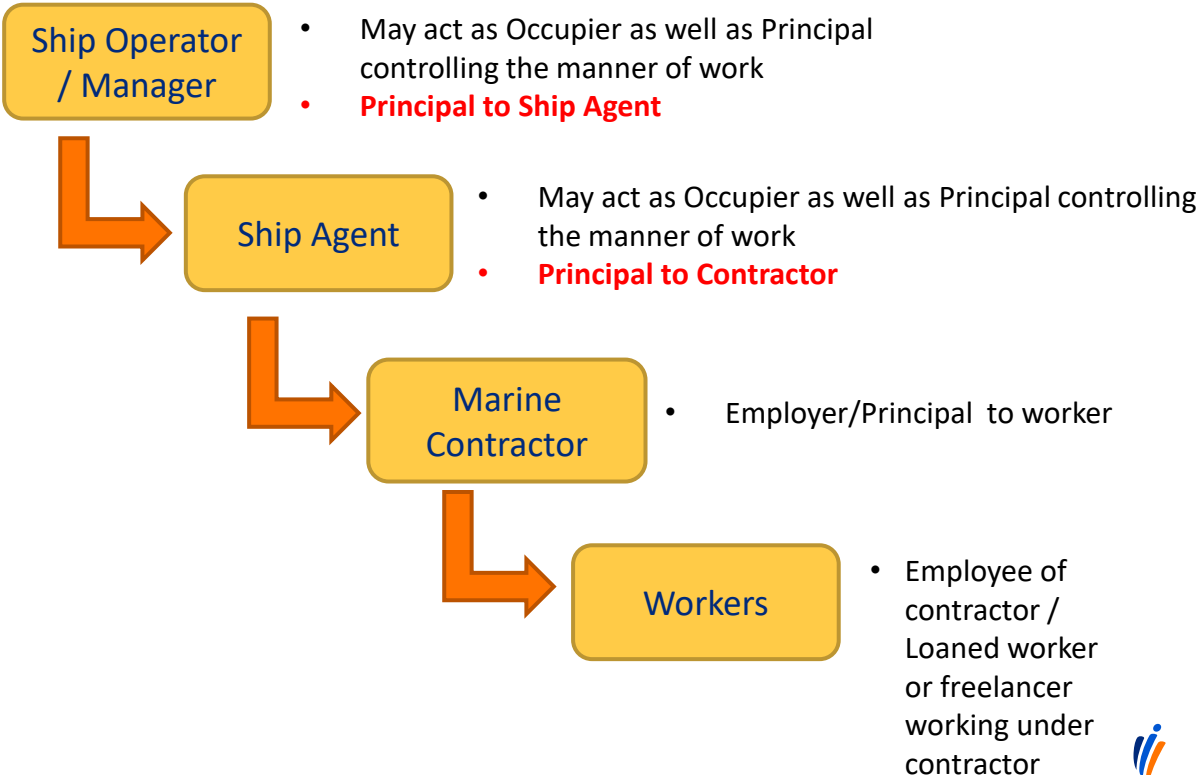
Relationship between various stakeholders in Marine Industry

The WSH relationship between various stakeholders can come in various permutations:

Relationship 1



Relationship 2



Responsibilities of Various Duty-holders under WSH Act

| Types of Duty-holders | Duties under the WSH Act |
|--|---|
| Occupier (s11) | Ensure that: (a) the workplace; (b) all points of access and egress; and (c) all items kept within the workplace are safe and pose no health risks to any person (including visitors and members of the public) on the premises. |
| Employer (s12) | The Employer or Principal must safeguard the safety and health of all workers (including employees, loaned workers and freelancers) working under their direction, as well as any persons who may be affected by their work activities (such as members of the public). |
| Principal (s14) - Direct the manner of work carried out by workers. | |
| Principal (s14A) - Does not direct the manner of work carried out by workers. | Ensure that all contractors possess the necessary expertise and implement sufficient WSH measures to execute their works and verify the training qualifications and competency of their workers. |

Responsibilities of Various Duty-holders under WSH Act

Delegation of Responsibilities on Duty-holders

- 1) A person may simultaneously hold two or more duty-holder positions, and consequently, the WSH Act may impose corresponding duties or liabilities upon that person.
- 2) The WSH Act may simultaneously impose identical duties or liabilities on two or more persons, regardless of whether they serve in the same or different capacities.
- 3) A duty or liability imposed by the WSH Act on any person remains undiminished and fully enforceable, even when the same obligation is imposed on others, regardless of their capacities.

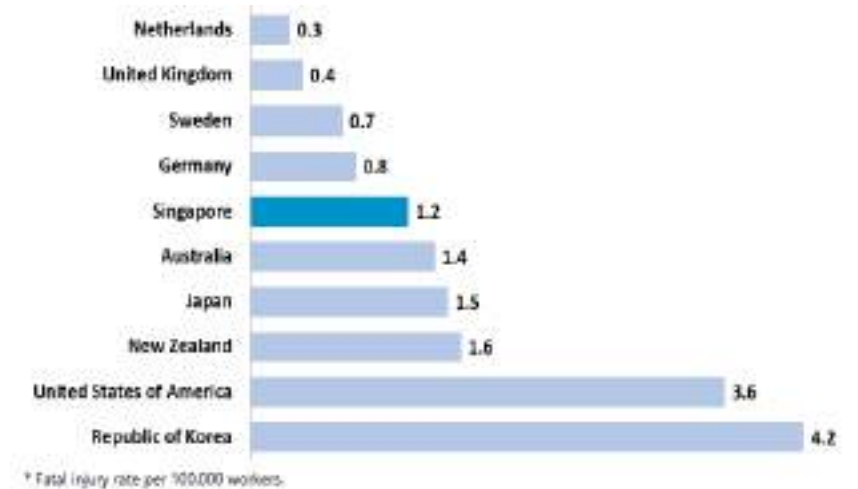
**WSH
Performance
for Marine
Industry**

At national level, steady decline in workplace fatality rate over the years (2015-2024)

Number and rate of workplace fatal injuries, 2015-2024



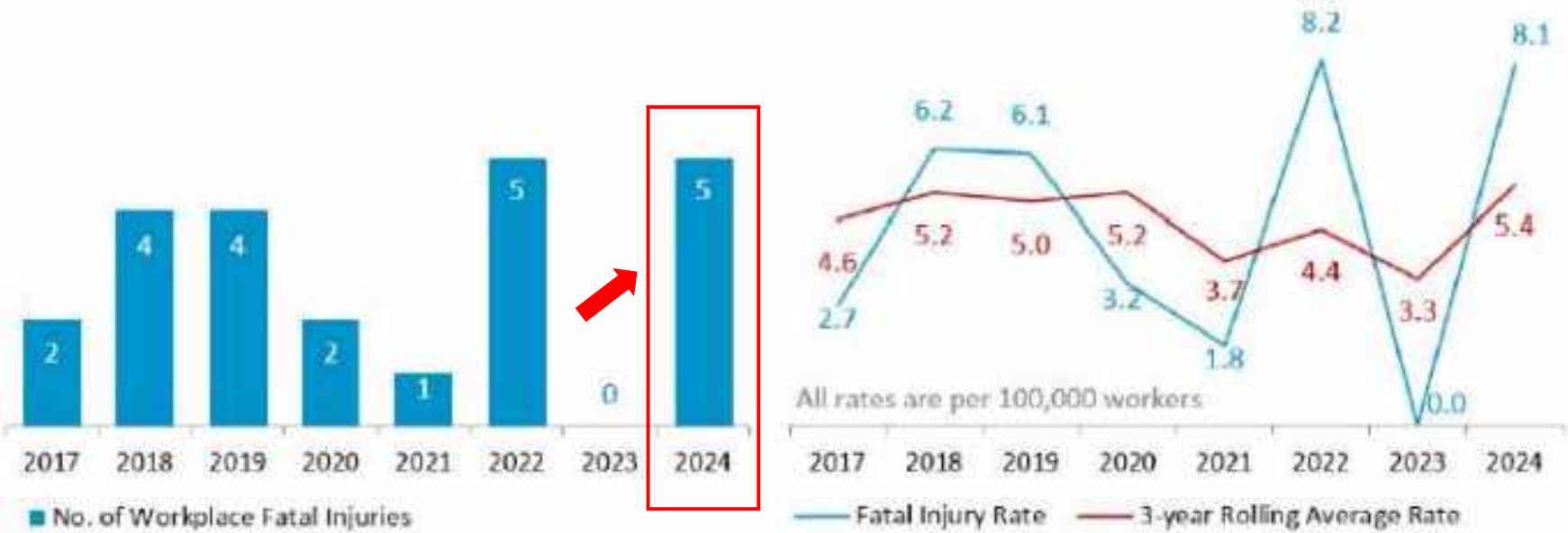
International comparison of workplace fatal injury rate* (3-year average)



However, there is an alarming increase in fatalities at anchorages

Marine industry recorded five fatalities in 2024, a significant increase from zero in 2023. 4 of the 5 fatalities (80%) occurred at anchorages

Number and rate of workplace fatal injuries for Marine Industry, 2017-2024



Incidents with higher fatality risk in Marine industry were attributed to workers struck by moving objects, falling from height and drowning

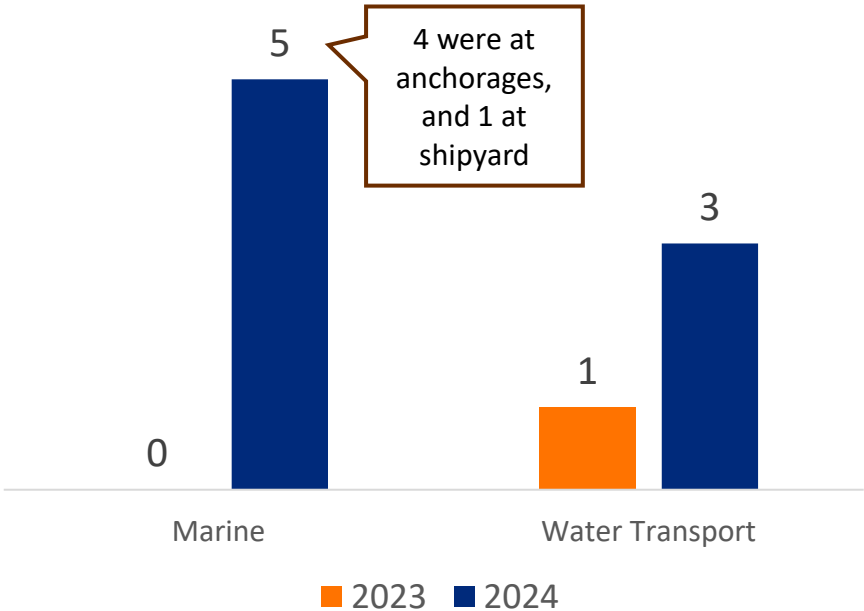
Common incident type (cause) for fatal and major injuries in 2024

| Marine | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| Type A | | Type B | |
| Incident Type (Cause) | 2024 | Incident Type (Cause) | 2024 |
| Struck by Moving Objects | 5 | Slips, Trips & Falls | 5 |
| Falls from Height | 3 | | |
| Suffocation/Drowning | 2 | | |
| Vehicular Incidents | 2 | | |
| Caught in/Between Objects | 2 | | |
| Struck by Falling Objects | 2 | | |



Other than the 4 fatalities at anchorages, 3 other fatalities occurred on water transport vessels

No. of fatalities in 2023 and 2024
(Marine and Water Transport)



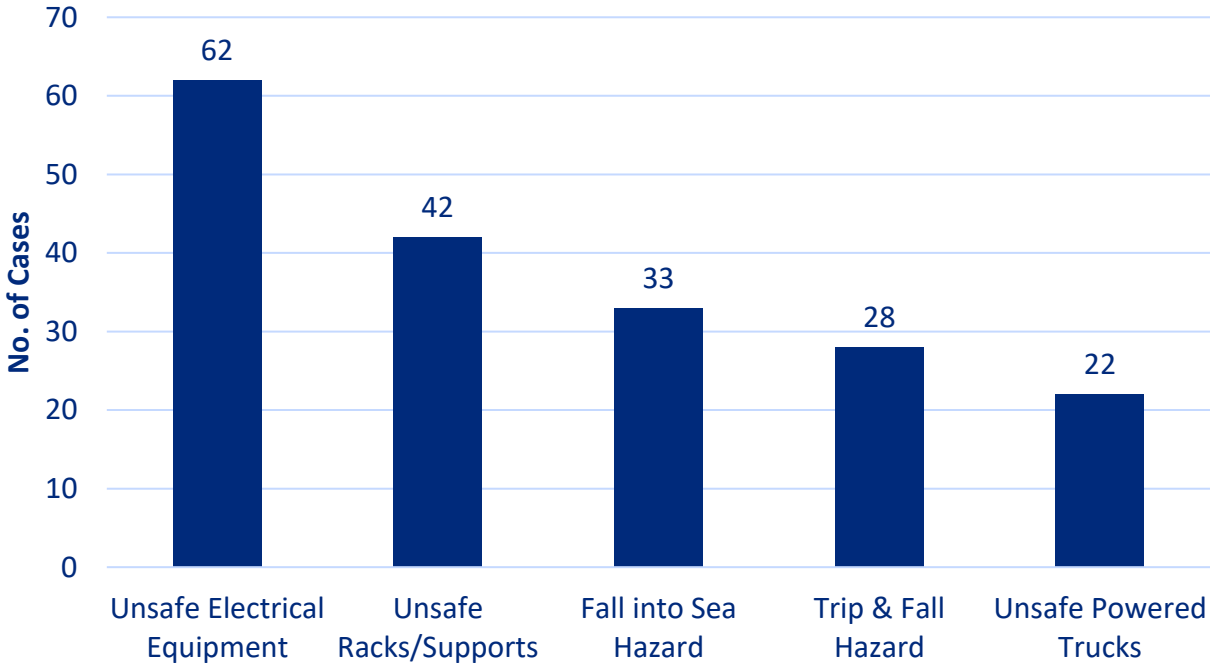
| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Locations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 occurred at anchorages involving foreign-registered vessels. • 3 occurred on water transport vessels. |
| Direct causes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 involved common hazards (fall through opening, oxygen deficiency in confined space) • 2 involved diving operations (failure to surface after expired diving time, entanglement with boat propellers during hull cleaning) • 3 were vessel-related (sinking of tugboats, falling overboard from single man craft) |



| Marine Industry Inspections (2024) | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| No. of Stop Work Orders | 2 |
| No. of Contraventions | 537 |
| Total fines issued | \$62,350 |

Top Contraventions from Marine Industry Inspections

Top 5 Contraventions in 2024



(1) Key Findings: Unsafe Electrical Equipment

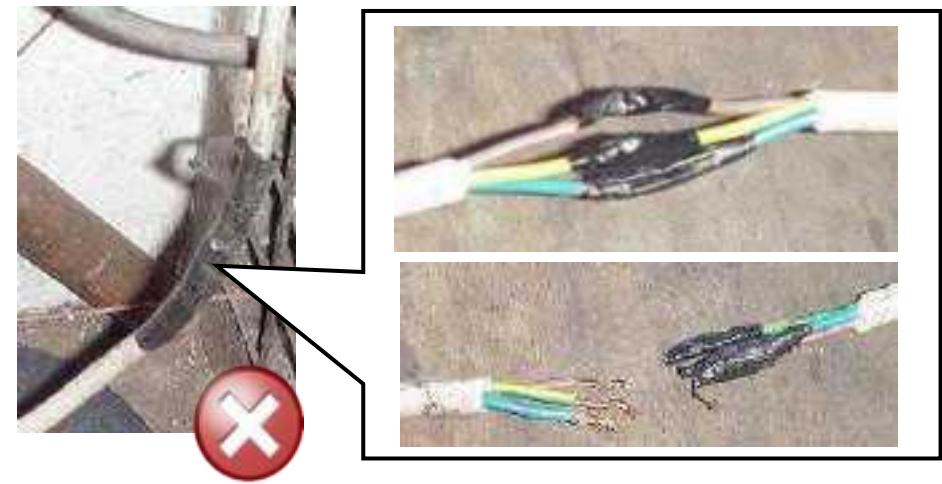
Risk of fire hazards from use of multi-adaptor



No intermediate barrier



No PVC-taped joint is allowed.

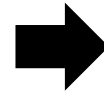


(1) Key Findings: Unsafe Electrical Equipment

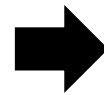
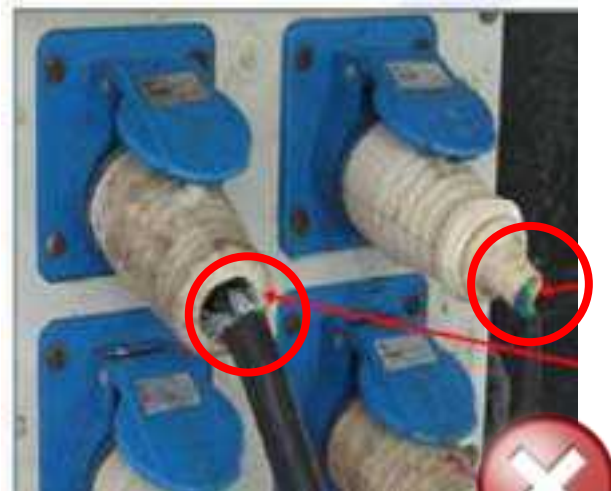
Electric welder with exposed connectors (conductors)



Connectors covered with insulating shield



Flexible cable not secured

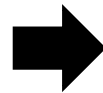


(2) Key Findings: Unsafe Supporting Structures

Safe Working Loads (SWLs) are not indicated on storage racks.

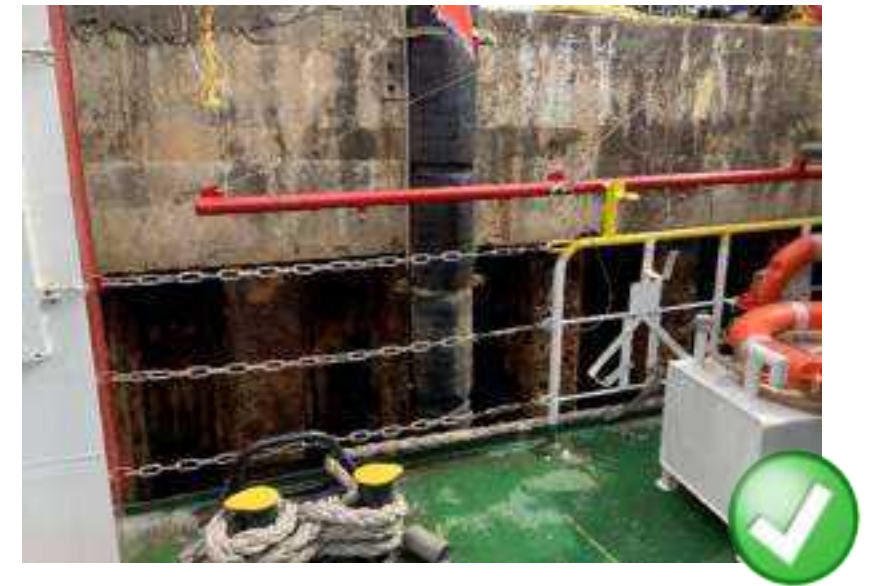
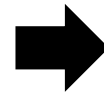
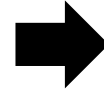


Safety pin missing from storage rack.



(3) Key Findings: Open Sides at Seafront/Vessels

Lack of or inadequate guardrails or barriers



(4) Key Findings: Trip & Fall hazards

Edges of metal plates protruding off the ground, which posed risk of trip and fall.



Electrical cables & hoses found lying haphazardly on the workshop's passageway



(5) Key Findings: Use of Powered Trucks

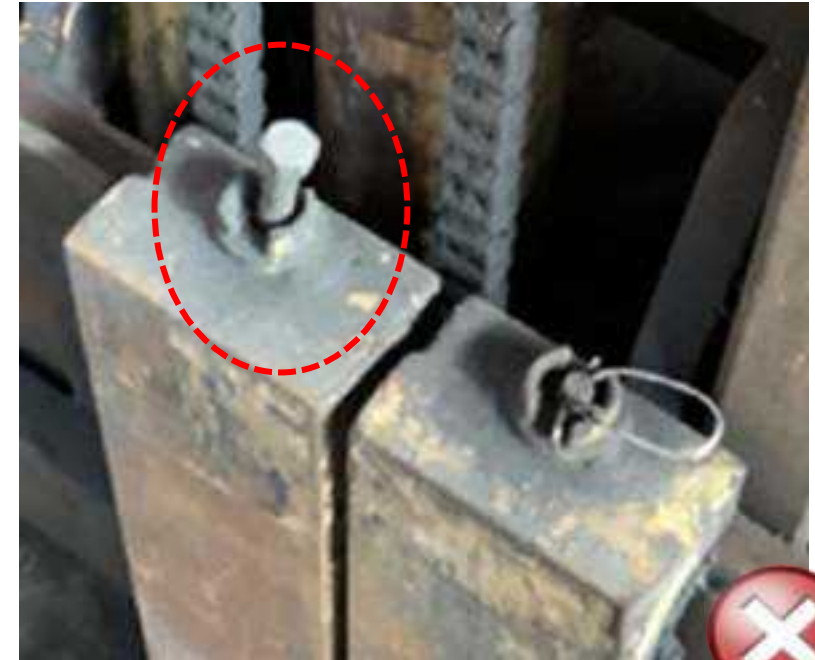
Worn-out Tyre



Damaged Signal Light



Missing (Proper) Fork Locking Pin



Case Study on Toppled Forklift

Case Study of Fatal Accident involving Toppled Forklift

Brief Facts

- In Mar 2022, the Deceased was operating a forklift down a ramp of the shipyard. The forklift was fitted with a boom attachment and was raised to about 3.5m high to suspend a steel receptacle (containing the said counterweights) via a lifting gear.
- The Deceased was travelling in a forward direction down the ramp when the forklift suddenly toppled onto its left.
- The Deceased was trapped under the forklift and was subsequently extricated by co-workers. He was conveyed to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries.



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Key Findings

- The forklift's mast had been elevated to a height of approximately 3.5m and was fitted with a boom attachment on its fork. It was used to lift the cage (filled with counterweights) using webbing sling connected to the cage
- The webbing sling lacked a valid certificate of examination and test from an authorised examiner.
- Deceased had also not fastened his forklift's seatbelt.

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Key Findings

- The boom attachment was fabricated by occupier which was not authorized or approved by forklift manufacturer/supplier. Hence, no revised forklift load chart available.
- Forklift operators not trained on the use of boom attachment or informed of its associated hazards.
- Weights of boom attachment and cage were not determined or communicated to forklift operators before the lifting operation.
- No risk assessment had been conducted to evaluate additional hazards associated with slinging loads on the boom attachment, such as rigging and hoisting operations or travelling with suspended loads.

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Enforcement Actions Taken

- The company pleaded guilty and was convicted, receiving a fine of \$180,000.
- The Workplace Safety and Health Officer (WSHO) was issued a composition fine of \$2,500.

THE STRAITS TIMES SINGAPORE


36 lives lost: Workplace fatalities in S'pore in 2022

UPDATED SEP 01, 2022, 20:04 AM

SINGAPORE - The number of workplace fatalities in Singapore has risen sharply in 2022, exceeding the total number of worker deaths in the whole of 2020.

Here's a timeline of the incidents this year.

March 21: A forklift driver died after his vehicle overturned while he was driving down an uneven slope at the premises of shipbuilding and repair firm [redacted] in Pioneer.



Annotations in the photograph:

- Overturned forklift
- Self-made forklift boom attachment with suspended load

Overview of accident scene.

Safe Forklift Operation

Following the accident, the WSH Council issued an WSH Alert to raise industry awareness regarding safe forklift operation and necessary risk control measures to prevent similar incidents.

The key recommendations included:

- Ensuring only competent, licensed and authorised operators are permitted to operate forklifts
- Prohibiting the suspension of loads from forklifts or their attachments unless manufacturer-approved
- Using only manufacturer-approved attachments
- Maintaining loads within the forklift's rated capacity
- Ensuring ground conditions are safe for operation
- Enforcing mandatory seatbelt use

Ref: 2122070 Date: 23/03/2022

28 March 2022

WSH ALERT

FATAL ACCIDENT

Worker pinned by overturned forklift

On 21 March 2022, an operator was driving a forklift down an uneven sloped surface at a shipyard when it overturned. The operator was rescued from under the forklift and sent to the hospital where he later passed away.

The forklift was fitted with a self-made boom attachment to carry a suspended load. The operator was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.



Overview of accident scene.



Tripartite Alliance for
Workplace Safety and Health

Visit www.ta.sg/wshc for more resources

Code of Practice on
Workplace Safety and Health (WSH)
Risk Management



**Workplace Safety and
Health Guidelines**

Safe Operation of Forklift Trucks



**Workplace Safety and
Health Guidelines**

Safe Use of Machinery



**Guide to
Safe Use of Overhead
Travelling Cranes, Gantry
Cranes, Jib Cranes and Hoists**



Thank you

ASMI 27th Workplace Safety & Health Convention

15 May 2025

Resources

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