



Industrial accident

An accident happened at a construction site in Kowloon Bay on **20 July 2020**, in which a worker was suspected to have received an electric shock while moving a cable of an electric arc welding machine.

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be much appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much!

Relevant hyperlink: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/20/P2020072000848.htm?fontSize=1>

Source: Information Services Department

Recommendations

► As a Contractor / Subcontractor / Employer:

1. Appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the working environment to identify all potential hazards on site, including electrical hazard;
2. Formulate safe work method and procedures with due regard to the results of risk assessments, including the adoption of a permit-to-work system where necessary;
3. Provide and ensure the use of suitable personal protective equipment, such as insulating gloves, to afford additional protection to the workers involved; and
4. Provide workers/employees involved with adequate information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures.

► As Frontline Supervisor / Worker:

1. Arrange REW(s) to regularly examine and repair electrical equipment.
2. Ensure that the power supply to the welding equipment should be properly shut down, with the remaining welding electrode on the electrode holder properly detached, after the welding operation;
3. Ensure that the electric arc welding transformer is rendered dead by isolating its power supply before conducting the clearing up work; and
4. Ensure that all equipment such as electric arc welding equipment and conductors exposed to weather or water shall be so constructed, installed and protected as necessary to prevent electrical hazard.

► As a Safety Practitioner:

1. Assist the competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessment with respect to the operation and actual site conditions. Then assist the employer to formulate safe working methods and procedures in compliance with the requirements of safety legislation and guidelines; and
2. Develop and implement an effective proactive inspection program to ensure that safety measures are strictly followed and report any non-compliances.

The above only listed out key points of safety, for more information please make reference to 《Construction sites (Safety) Regulations》, 《F&IU (Electricity) Regulations》, and the 《Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations》.



Disclaimer

This message is not intended to constitute any professional advice on these or any other subjects.

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