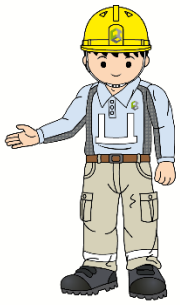
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

CIC Safety Message

No. 05/26



TOWER CRANE TOPPLED AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN KWAI CHUNG RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF THE OPERATOR

On 19 March 2026, a tower crane toppled suddenly during operation at a construction site in Kwai Chung. The operator cabin, together with parts of the crane, fell to a slope nearby the construction site, resulting in the death of the crane operator. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

1. Failure to follow the manufacturer's instruction to operate the tower cranes.
2. Failure to conduct regular inspections to the tower cranes (including critical parts) or insufficient checking time provided.
3. Failure to follow the manufacturer's instruction to carry out the required maintenance and repair works for the tower cranes.
4. Failure to ensure that the lifting operation was conducted in accordance with the maximum safe working load (SWL).
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.

Life First - Walk the Talk "Transportation and Lifting Safety in Construction Site" was held on 12 August 2025. Please click the above image to watch the replay at CIC website (Chinese Version only)

Critical Control Measures

1. **Strictly follow the "Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes"** issued by Labour Department, to inspect, examinate, test and operate the tower cranes.
2. **Appropriate design and calculations** before installation of a tower crane and ensure the crane matches the job's requirements.
3. Ensure the lifting operation is carried out in accordance with the **maximum safe working load (SWL)**.
4. **Excessive pulling on a load which is caught or stuck should also be prohibited** in avoid endangering the stability of a tower crane.
5. Ensure the tower cranes are **regularly tested, thoroughly examined and routinely inspected by a competent examiner and a competent person** respectively.
6. Develop an inspection and maintenance schedule for the tower crane (including critical parts) and **arrange maintenance technicians to carry out preventive maintenance works at least once a month**.
7. If the manufacturer's instruction manuals recommend that specific tasks be carried out at stated intervals, such procedures should be followed.
8. Should the person carrying out an inspection find **any abnormality in the tower crane (such as flaking of the paint on structural members' joint, cracking on welded joints, insufficient tightness of the bolts etc.)**, it should be reported immediately to the person in charge and the operation of the tower crane should be stopped.
9. **Establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system** to ensure the safety measures are strictly followed.

Ensure that the tower cranes are properly maintained and repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions by persons who are suitably trained and competent for such work

Develop an inspection and maintenance schedule for the tower crane (including critical parts) and arrange maintenance technicians to carry out preventive maintenance works at least once a month

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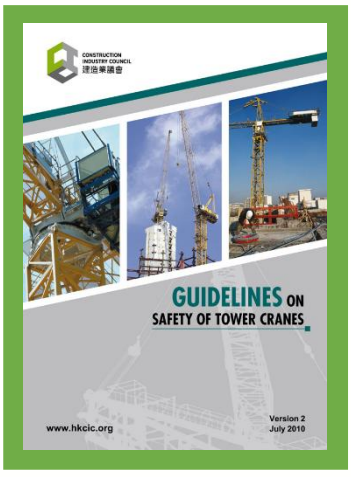
SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accidents be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider the weights and moving distances of loads, the working environment of the operation zone and the characteristics of the crane, and select appropriate lifting appliances prior to the commencement of lifting works.
- During the construction stage, the construction team should properly plan, manage and supervise the lifting and preventive maintenance works of the tower cranes, and ensure that the tower cranes are properly maintained and repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction by persons who are suitably trained and competent for such work.
- The work team should give sufficient time for the person carrying out an inspection of the tower cranes to ensure they are in good condition.
- Workers should comply with the developed safe working procedures. If any malfunctioning or suspected defect of the tower cranes, report it to their supervisors and take action against it.

Reference Information

Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes
(Source: Labour Department)



Guidelines on Safety of Tower Cranes

Lifting Safety Handbook

Poster - Regular Inspections and Maintenance for Critical Parts of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gears

Please Click the Images

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