

## 20. SAFETY IN DEMOLITION WORK

### 20.1 PREPARATION

- 20.1.1 All glass or similar material or article in exterior openings shall be removed before commencing any demolition work and all water, steam, electric, gas and other similar supply lines put off and suitably capped and the concerned department of the appropriate authority informed and permission obtained wherever required before commencing;
- 20.1.2 Wherever it is necessary to maintain water, gas or electric line or power during such demolition, such line shall be so located or protected with substantial coverings so as to protect it from damage and to afford safety to the building workers and the general public.

### 20.2 PROTECTION OF ADJACENT STRUCTURES

20.2.1 Examination of walls etc. of adjacent structures –

- i) During demolition process, the contractor shall examine the walls of all structures adjacent to the structure to be demolished to determine the thickness, method of support to such adjacent structures and;
- ii) In case, such employer has reason to believe that any of such adjacent structure is unsafe or may become unsafe during such demolition process, he shall not perform demolition activity unless stability to such unsafe adjacent structure from collapsing has been taken. All roads and open spaces adjacent to the site of demolition work shall be closed or suitably protected by bracketing.

### 20.3 DEMOLITION OF WALLS, PARTITIONS, ETC.

- 20.3.1 Any demolition of walls or partitions shall be proceeded in a systematic manner as per the standard safe operating practices approved and all work above each tier of any floor beams shall be completed before the safety of the supports of such beam is impaired;
- 20.3.2 Masonry shall be neither loosened nor permitted to fall in such masses or volume or weight as to endanger the structural stability of any floor or structural supports;
- 20.3.3 No wall chimney or other structure or part of a structure shall be left unguarded in such a condition that it may fall, collapse or weaken due to wind pressure or vibration;
- 20.3.4 In the case of demolition of exterior walls by hand, safe footing shall be provided for the workers employed in, such walls or partitions, which are to be demolished by hand shall be not left standing more than one storey high above the uppermost floor on which persons are working.

**20.4 METHOD OF OPERATION:** The contractor shall ensure that debris, bricks and other materials or articles are removed by means of chutes, buckets or hoists and through openings in the floors.

### 20.5 ACCESS TO FLOOR

- 20.5.1 Safe access to and egress from every building shall be provided at all times in the course of demolition by means of entrances hallways, stairways or ladder runs which shall be so protected as to safeguard the workers using such means from falling material or articles;

- 20.5.2 Demolition of structural steel etc. shall be demolished column by column and tier by tier and every structural member, which is being demolished, shall not be under any stress, and such structural member shall be suitably lashed to prevent it from any uncontrolled swinging, dropping or falling or falling;
- 20.5.3 Large structural members shall not be thrown or dropped from the building, but carefully lowered by adopting suitable safe method;
- 20.5.4 Where a lifting appliance like a derrick is used for demolition, the floor on which such lifting appliance rests shall be completely planked over or supported and such floor shall be of adequate strength to sustain bearing load for such lifting appliance and its operation.

## **20.6 STORAGE OF MATERIAL OR ARTICLE**

- 20.6.1 No materials or articles shall be not stored or kept on platform, floor or stairways of a building being demolished, provided that this clause shall not apply to the floor of a building when such floor is of such strength as to support safely the load to be superimposed by storing such material or articles;
- 20.6.2 No access to any stairway or passageway shall be affected or blocked by storing any material or article;
- 20.6.3 Suitable barricades shall be provided so as to prevent materials or articles from sliding or rebounding into any space used by the workers.

## **20.7 FLOOR OPENINGS:**

Every opening used for the removal of debris from every floor which is not closed to access, except the top or working floor, shall be provided with an enclosure from such floor to its ceiling, or such opening is so barricaded that no building worker shall access to within a horizontal distance of 6.0 m from such opening through which debris is being dropped.

## **20.8 INSPECTION:**

A person responsible for demolition work shall make continuous inspections during demolition process so as to detect any hazard resulting from weakened or deteriorated floors or walls or loosened materials or articles, and that no building worker shall be permitted to work where such hazard exist unless remedial measures like shoring or bracing shall be taken to prevent such hazards.

## **20.9 WARNING SIGNS, BARRICADES, ETC.**

- 20.9.1 Barricades and warning sign shall be erected along every side throughout the length and breadth of a building or other construction work to be demolished to prevent unauthorized persons from entering into the during demolition operations;
- 20.9.2 During the demolition of an exterior masonry wall or a roof from a point more than 12 m above the adjoining ground level of such wall or roof, if persons below such wall or roof are exposed to falling objects, suitable and safe catch platform shall be provided and maintained at a level not more than 6 m below the working level except where an exterior built-up scaffold is provided for safe and adequate protection of such persons;
- 20.9.3 Suitable and standard warning signs shall be displayed or erected at conspicuous places or position at the workplace;

## **20.10 MECHANICAL METHOD OF DEMOLITION**

20.10.1 The following requirements shall be fulfilled in case the mechanical method of demolition like use of swinging weight, clamshell bucket, power shovel, bulldozer or other similar mechanical methods are used for the purpose of demolition namely –

- i) The building or structure or structure or remaining portion thereof shall be not more than 12 m in height;
- ii) Where a swinging weight is used for demolition, a zone of such demolition having a radius of at least 1.5 times the height of the structure of portion thereof being demolished shall be maintained around the points of impact of such swinging weight;
- iii) Where a clamshell bucket is being used for demolition, a zone of demolition shall be maintained within eight metres of the liner of travel of such bucket;
- iv) Where other mechanical methods are being used to affect total or partial collapse of a building or other construction work, there shall be maintained, in the area into which the affected portion of such building or other construction work may fall, a zone of demolition at least 1.5 times the height of such affected portion thereof; and
- v) No person other than building workers or other persons essential to the operation of demolition work shall be permitted to enter a zone of demolition, which shall be provided with substantial barricades.