

Critical alert

Fatality – Fall from height



Summary

A Fall from height incident involving a (Drive test) DT Engineer was reported on 15th July 2021.

During the subsequent investigation, it was found that the DT engineer was the owner of the 2nd tier ASP company and was working as the sub-contractor for Ericsson 1st tier ASP company, ASP company managers assigned responsibility of site allocation and monitoring. To reduce costs, the owner of the 2nd tier ASP company had replaced a registered rigger working for him and used his documents, such as climbing certificate, Ericsson provided Safety Passport and ASP company ID card for unregistered and cheaper labour, as an impersonator for the registered rigger. He presented the unauthorised person as rigger during OHS RSA by making him wear his mask to avoid getting caught.

Later during the investigation, access to the person impersonating as a rigger was discovered and the investigating team got the translated version of his statement as an eyewitness. On the day of the incident, the DT engineer climbed the tower with wearing a full body safety harness and reached the platform, however, while working on the platform he did not anchor, and he fell from about 35–40-meter height.

According to the witness, the DT Engineer used him to pose as a rigger and owner climbed the tower over the last 3-4 sites. Following the fall the DT engineer was taken to hospital and declared deceased due to injuries sustained.

A police report has been filed, and police are conducting further investigations.

Direct cause

- Unsafe act / behaviour: the DT engineer did not anchor to the tower
- Supervision Failure: ASP failed to supervise sub-cons by virtual random callback audits.
- SOP Violation: DT Engineers are not allowed to climb towers. Accompanying riggers were assigned for climbing the tower. DT engineers are trained for climbing for emergency and rescue purposes only.

Indirect cause

- Failed to identify fraud: Remote site audits and OHS site safety inspections by supplier teams failed to identify the fraud of impersonation as rigger due to the mask. (COVID19 contributed)

Contributing factors

- Unsupervised work allocation to tier 2 & 3 suppliers by Ericsson prime suppliers.

Actions to prevent from happening again

- Conduct continuous OHS awareness sessions for ASP companies and tier suppliers to reinforce OHS
- RSC engineers to conduct identification verification by asking resource to remove mask in controlled environment to eject unauthorized person on-site. Report such cases to ASP management and Sourcing for further actions.
- Perform 20 % OHS site inspection by ASP & Ericsson management team and provide criteria, schedule, assign minimum inspection per project personnel & reporting requirements
- ASP management to conduct weekly review of Suppliers who are outsourcing to tier 3 sub-cons. They must be audited to ensure compliance and effective supervisory mechanism. This must be part of the ASP performance monitoring & review mechanism at ASP & Sourcing level.
- Circle project directors to review OHS performance KPIs during weekly meetings. (Dashboard to be developed)