

# **Workplace Safety & Health (General Provisions) Regulations 2006**

## **1. Citation and commencement**

These Regulations may be cited as the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations 2006 and shall come into operation on 1st March 2006.

## **2. Definitions**

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“competent person” means a person who has sufficient experience and training to perform the work required to be carried out, and has passed such courses as the Commissioner may require for that work;

“electrical equipment” —

(a) means any machine, appliance, apparatus or lighting fitting which consumes or utilises electricity in its operation or use; and

(b) includes any cable, wire and other device necessary to enable it to be connected to a source of electricity supply;

~~“fume” includes gas or vapour;~~ *(Deleted under WSH (General Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 wef 10 Sep 2011)*

*“hazardous substance” means any hazardous substance specified in Part II of the Fifth Schedule to the Act;*

*“PEL (Long Term)” means the permissible exposure level over an 8-hour working day and a 40-hour work week;*

*“PEL (Short Term)” means the permissible exposure level over a 15-minute period during any working day;*

*“permissible exposure level” means the maximum time weighted average concentration of a toxic substance to which any person may be exposed;*

*“plant” means any machinery, vessel, pipe or other apparatus or combination thereof which is connected or used for the purpose of making a product;*

*“safe working load” means —*

*(a) the safe working load specified in the certificate of test and examination obtained for the purposes of regulation 19, 20 or 21; or*

*(b) where there is no such certificate, the safe working load as ascertained by an authorised examiner;*

“tank” includes any pipe and valve thereof and all its fittings and attachments;

“time weighted average concentration” means the concentration determined by adding together the products of each concentration and the corresponding time over which that concentration was measured, and dividing the sum by the total time over which the measurements were taken;

“toxic substance” means any substance which may cause irritation, bodily injury or any harmful effect to a person through ingestion, inhalation or contact with any body surface, and includes any substance specified in the First Schedule;

“transmission machinery” means every shaft, wheel, drum, pulley, system of fast and loose pulleys, coupling, clutch, driving-belt or other device by which the motion of a prime mover is transmitted to or received by any machine or appliance.

## **3. Infectious agents and biohazardous material**

(1) Where any person at work in any *workplace* carries out any process, operation or work involving exposure to any infectious agents or biohazardous material which may constitute a risk to his health, it shall be the duty of the employer of that person to take effective measures to protect that person from their harmful effects.

(2) In this regulation, “biohazardous material” includes —

(a) any substance which contains toxins;

(b) any biological waste;

(c) any culture medium;

(d) any contaminated blood, urine or faeces;

(e) any infected tissue or organ; and

(f) any infected animal.

## **4. Overcrowding**

It shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* to ensure that while work is carried on in the *workplace*, the *workplace* is not overcrowded so as to pose safety and health risks to the persons at work therein.

## **5. Ventilation**

(1) Subject to paragraph (3), it shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* to ensure that every workroom of the workplace is provided with adequate ventilation.

(2) Where gases, vapours or other impurities are generated in the course of any process or work carried out in a workplace which may be injurious to health, it shall be the duty of the occupier of the [workplace](#) to provide effective and suitable ventilation —

- (a) for securing and maintaining the circulation of fresh air in the [workplace](#); and
- (b) to render harmless, so far as is reasonably practicable, all such gases, vapours or other impurities.

(3) This regulation shall not apply to any [workplace](#) where it is impracticable to make provision for adequate ventilation and where suitable air-supplied breathing apparatus is provided to persons at work in the [workplace](#).

#### **6. Lighting**

It shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) to provide and maintain sufficient and suitable lighting, whether natural or artificial, in every part of the [workplace](#) in which persons are at work or passing.

#### **7. Drainage of floors**

In any [workplace](#) where any process is carried on which renders the floor liable to be wet, it shall be the duty of the occupier of the [workplace](#) to provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable, effective means for draining off the wet.

#### **8. Sanitary conveniences**

It shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) —

- (a) to provide, maintain and keep clean, sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences for the persons at work in the [workplace](#); and
- (b) to provide and maintain sufficient and suitable lighting for these sanitary conveniences.

#### **9. Reduction of vibration**

In any [workplace](#) where persons are at work in any process or operation which involves exposure to vibration which may constitute a risk to their health, it shall be the duty of the occupier of the [workplace](#) to provide, so far as is reasonably practicable, effective means to reduce the vibration.

#### **10. Protection against excessive heat or cold and harmful radiations**

It shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) to take all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that persons at work in the [workplace](#) are protected from excessive heat or cold and harmful radiations.

#### **11. Prime movers**

Subject to regulation 13, it shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) to ensure that in every [workplace](#) where a prime mover is used, every flywheel connected to the prime mover and every moving part of the prime mover is securely fenced, whether the flywheel or prime mover is situated in the engine house or not.

#### **12. Electric generator, motor, transmission machinery, etc.**

(1) Subject to regulation 13, it shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) to ensure that every dangerous part (including any flywheel) of any electric generator, motor, transmission machinery or other machinery in the [workplace](#) is securely fenced unless the dangerous part of the generator, motor or machinery —

- (a) is in such a position or of such construction as to be safe to every person at work in the [workplace](#) as it would be if securely fenced; or
- (b) is made safe for persons at work in the [workplace](#) by other effective means which will protect the persons from being injured by the dangerous part when that part is in motion or in use.

(2) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) to ensure that in any room or place in the [workplace](#) where transmission machinery is used, there is provided and maintained efficient devices or appliances in that room or place by which the power can promptly be cut off from the transmission machinery.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), it shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) to ensure that any part of a stock-bar used in a [workplace](#) which projects beyond the headstock of a lathe is securely fenced or is otherwise made safe to every person at work in the [workplace](#).

#### **13. Removal of fencing from machinery**

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the fencing or other effective means referred to in regulations 11 and 12 (1) which are used to render machinery safe may be removed to such extent as is necessary when—

(a) a person is carrying out in the *workplace*, while the part of machinery is in motion —  
(i) any examination of the machinery or part of the machinery; or  
(ii) any lubrication or adjustment shown by such examination to be immediately necessary,  
being an examination, a lubrication or an adjustment which is necessary to be carried out while the part of machinery is in motion; or

(b) a person is carrying out in the *workplace* any lubrication or any mounting or shifting of belts in respect of any part of a transmission machinery and if —  
(i) the Commissioner has determined that, owing to the continuous nature of such process, the stopping of that part would seriously interfere with the carrying on of the process in the workplace; and  
(ii) the lubrication or mounting or shifting of belts is carried out by such methods and in such circumstances and subject to such conditions as the Commissioner may determine.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall only apply where —

(a) the relevant examination, lubrication or other operation is carried out by a person who —

(i) has attained the age of 18 years; (*Amended under WSH (General Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 wef 10 Sep 2011*)

(ii) *has been trained to carry out, and is acquainted with the dangers of moving machinery connected with the relevant examination, lubrication or other operation; and*

(iii) *is wearing clothing which has no loose ends and which is fastened by means having no exposed loose ends;*

(b) another person, instructed as to the steps to be taken in case of an emergency, is immediately available within sight or hearing of the person carrying out the relevant examination, lubrication or other operation; and

(c) any ladder or work platform in use for the carrying out of the relevant examination, lubrication or other operation is securely fixed or lashed, or is firmly held by a person stationed at the foot of the ladder.

#### 14. Electrical installation and equipment

(1) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* to ensure that every electrical installation and electrical equipment in the *workplace* —

(a) is of good construction, sound material and free from defects; and

(b) is used and maintained in such manner so that it is safe to use.

(2) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* to ensure that all reasonably practicable measures are taken to protect any person against the risks of electric shock arising from or in connection with the use at work of any electrical installation or equipment in the *workplace*.

#### 15. Construction and maintenance of fencing or other safeguards

(1) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* to ensure that all fencing or other safeguards required to be provided for the purposes of regulations 11 and 12 are —

(a) of substantial construction;

(b) properly maintained; and

(c) kept in position and properly adjusted to render the machinery safe for any person while the parts required to be fenced or safeguarded are in motion or in use.

(2) Paragraph (1) (c) shall not apply where —

(a) the parts mentioned in that paragraph are necessarily exposed in motion for examination and for any lubrication or adjustment shown by such examination to be immediately necessary; and

(b) all the conditions specified in regulation 13 (2) are complied with.

#### 16. Lock-out procedures

(1) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* to establish and implement lock-out procedures relating to the inspection, cleaning, repair or maintenance of any plant, machinery, equipment or electrical installation in the *workplace* that, if inadvertently activated or energised, is liable to cause bodily injury to any person.

(2) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* to ensure that every person carrying out any inspection, cleaning, repair or maintenance of any plant, machinery, equipment or electrical installation in the workplace is fully instructed on the lock-out procedures for that work before commencing that work.

(3) In this regulation, "lock-out procedures" means a set of procedures —

- (a) to ensure that all energy sources to the relevant plant, machinery, equipment or electrical installation are isolated, disconnected or discharged; and
- (b) to prevent any part of the plant, machinery, equipment or electrical installation from being inadvertently activated or energised.

#### 17. Protective measures relating to tanks, structures, sumps or pits containing dangerous substances

(1) Where any tank, structure, sump or pit in a [workplace](#) contains any scalding, burning, corrosive or toxic liquid and the edge of the tank, structure, sump or pit is less than one metre above the highest ground or platform from which a person might fall into it, it shall be the duty of the occupier of the [workplace](#) to ensure that —

- (a) the tank, structure, sump or pit is securely covered or is securely fenced to a height of at least one metre above that ground or platform; or
- (b) where by reason of the nature of the work, neither secure covering nor secure fencing to that height is practicable, all reasonably practicable steps are taken by covering, fencing or other means to prevent any person from falling into the tank, structure, sump or pit.

(2) Where any tank, structure, sump or pit in a [workplace](#) contains any scalding, burning, corrosive or toxic liquid but is not securely covered, it shall be the duty of the occupier of the [workplace](#) to ensure that no ladder, stair or gangway is placed above, across or inside it unless the ladder, stair or gangway is —

- (a) at least 500 millimetres wide; and
- (b) securely fenced to a height of at least one metre and securely fixed.

(3) Where any such tank, structure, sump or pit in a [workplace](#) referred to in paragraph (2) adjoins another tank, structure, sump or pit, and —

- (a) the space between them, clear of any surrounding brick or other work, is less than 500 millimetres in width; or
  - (b) each tank, structure, sump or pit is not securely fenced to a height of at least one metre,
- it shall be the duty of the occupier of the [workplace](#) to ensure that secure barriers are so placed as to prevent passage between them.

(4) For the purposes of this regulation, a ladder, stair or gangway shall not be considered to be securely fenced unless it is provided either with sheet fencing or with an upper and a lower rail and toe boards.

(5) Where any tank, structure, sump or pit in a [workplace](#) contains any scalding, burning, corrosive or toxic liquid, it shall be the duty of the occupier of the workplace to ensure that a warning notice indicating the nature of the danger and in a form readily understood by persons at work in that [workplace](#) —

- (a) is marked on or attached to the tank, structure, sump or pit; or
- (b) if this is not reasonably practicable, is posted nearby.

#### 18. Self-acting machines

(1) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) to take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that any self-acting machine in the [workplace](#) poses no risk to the safety and health of any person working in the workplace.

(2) The reasonably practicable steps include the following:

- (a) ensuring that no traversing part of any self-acting machine nor any material carried thereon shall, if the space into which it runs is a space over which any person (whether or not at work) is liable to pass, be less than 500 millimetres measured from any fixed structure not being part of the machine to the furthest point of its inward or outward traverse;
- (b) ensuring that no person at work in the [workplace](#) shall, when the machine is in operation, be in the space between any traversing part of the machine and any fixed part of the machine towards which the traversing part moves on the inward run; and
- (c) displaying on such machinery or at a place nearest to the process or work a notice written in languages understood by the persons at work using such machinery or in any such process or work describing the safety measures to be observed.

#### 19. Hoists and lifts

(1) No hoist or lift shall be used in a [workplace](#) unless an authorised examiner has —

- (a) tested and examined the hoist or lift after its installation; and
- (b) issued and signed a certificate of test and examination, specifying the safe working load of the hoist or lift.

- (2) The certificate of test and examination referred to in paragraph (1) (b) shall be kept available for inspection.
- (3) Subject to paragraph (10) (c), every hoist or lift used in a [workplace](#) shall be thoroughly examined by an authorised examiner at least once every 6 months or at such other intervals as the Commissioner may determine.
- (4) Every hoistway or liftway used in a workplace shall be efficiently protected by a substantial enclosure fitted with gates that will, when the gates are shut, prevent any person from falling down the way or coming into contact with any moving part of the hoist or lift.
- (5) Subject to paragraph (10) (b), any gate referred to in paragraph (4) shall be fitted with efficient interlocking or other devices to ensure that —
- (a) the gate cannot be opened except when the cage or platform is at the landing; and
- (b) the cage or platform cannot be moved away from the landing until the gate is closed.
- (6) Every hoist or lift and every enclosure referred to in paragraph (4) shall be so constructed as to prevent any part of any person or any goods carried in the hoist or lift being trapped between —
- (a) any part of the hoist or lift and any fixed structure; or
- (b) the counterbalance weight and any other moving part of the hoist or lift.
- (7) Every hoist or lift shall be marked conspicuously with the maximum working load which it can safely carry.
- (8) No hoist or lift shall be used in a [workplace](#) to carry a load exceeding its maximum working load.
- (9) The following additional requirements shall apply to lifts used in a [workplace](#):
- (a) efficient automatic devices shall be provided and maintained to prevent the cage or platform from over-running;
- (b) every cage shall, on each side from which access is afforded to a landing, be fitted with a gate with efficient devices to ensure that, when persons or goods are in the cage, the cage —
- (i) cannot be raised or lowered unless all the gates are closed; and
- (ii) will come to rest when a gate is opened; and
- (c) where the cage or platform of the lift is suspended by rope or chain —
- (i) the cage or platform shall be separately connected with at least 2 ropes or chains, each rope or chain and its attachments being capable of carrying the whole weight of the cage or platform and its maximum working load; and
- (ii) efficient devices shall be provided and maintained which will support the cage or platform with its maximum working load in the event of a breakage of the ropes or chains or any of their attachments.
- (10) In the case of a hoist or lift used in a [workplace](#) which is not powered with mechanical power —
- (a) paragraph (9) shall not apply;
- (b) the gate referred to in paragraph (4) shall be kept closed and fastened except when the cage or platform is at rest at the landing; and
- (c) a thorough examination of the hoist or lift shall be carried out at least once every year by an authorised examiner.
- (11) Where a hoistway or liftway inside a [workplace](#) passes through 2 or more floors — *(Amended under WSH (General Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 wef 10 Sep 2011)*
- (a) the hoistway or liftway shall be completely enclosed with fire-resisting materials, except that the top shall be enclosed only by some material easily broken in case of fire, or be provided with a vent; and
- (b) all means of access to the hoist or lift shall be fitted with doors of fire-resisting materials.
- (12) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) in which a hoist or lift is used to comply with paragraphs (1) to (11).
- (13) It shall be the duty of an authorised examiner to —
- (a) issue and sign a certificate, in a form determined by the Commissioner, of the result of the examination referred to in paragraph (3);
- (b) provide the certificate referred to in sub-paragraph (a) to the occupier of the [workplace](#);
- (c) inform the Commissioner —*
- (i) as soon as is reasonably practicable, if the examination shows that the hoist or lift cannot continue to be used safely unless repairs are made; or*
- (ii) in any other case, within 28 days of the completion of the examination, of the results of the examination in a manner acceptable to the Commissioner; and*
- (d) exercise all due diligence in making any certification or in conducting any test or examination of any hoist or lift under this regulation.*

(14) For the purposes of this regulation, no lifting machine or appliance shall be considered to be a hoist or lift unless it has a cage or platform and the direction of movement of the cage or platform is restricted by a guide or guides.

(15) This regulation shall not apply to any lift which has been inspected and tested under the Building Maintenance and Strata Management (Lift and Building Maintenance) Regulations 2005 (G.N. No. S 194/2005) and for which a Certificate of Lift Maintenance and Testing has been lodged with the Commissioner of Buildings.

## 20. Lifting gears

(1) No lifting gear of whatever material shall be used in a *workplace* unless an authorised examiner has —

- (a) tested and examined the lifting gear; and
- (b) issued and signed a certificate of test and examination, specifying the safe working load of the lifting gear.

(2) The certificate of test and examination referred to in paragraph (1) (b) shall be kept available for inspection.

(3) Every lifting gear used in a *workplace* shall be thoroughly examined by an authorised examiner at least once every year or at such other intervals as the Commissioner may determine.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), every lifting gear shall be annealed at the following intervals:

- (a) if in regular use —
  - (i) in the case of chains used in connection with molten metal or molten slag, at least once every 6 months; or
  - (ii) in any other case, at least once every year; or
- (b) if not in regular use, only when necessary.

(5) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to the following classes of lifting gear:

- (a) chains made of malleable cast iron;
- (b) plate link chains;
- (c) chains, rings, hooks, shackles and swivels made of steel or of any non-ferrous metal;
- (d) pitched chains working on sprocket or pocketed wheels;
- (e) rings, hooks, shackles and swivels permanently attached to pitched chains, pulley blocks or weighing machines;
- (f) hooks and swivels having screw-threaded parts or ball-bearings or other case-hardened parts;
- (g) socket shackles secured to wire ropes by white metal capping;
- (h) bordeaux connections;
- (i) rope or rope sling; and
- (j) any chain or lifting tackle which has been subjected to the heat treatment known as “normalising” instead of annealing.

(6) No lifting gear shall be loaded beyond its safe working load except by an authorised examiner or an inspector for the purpose of testing such lifting gear.

(7) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* in which a lifting gear is used to comply with paragraphs (1) to (4) and (6).

(8) Paragraphs (1) and (3) do not apply to any lifting gear which consists of natural fibre ropes or natural fibre slings. (Amended under WSH (General Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 wef 10 Sep 2011)

(9) It shall be the duty of an authorised examiner to —

- (a) issue and sign a certificate, in a form determined by the Commissioner, of the result of the examination referred to in paragraph (3);

(b) provide the certificate referred to in sub-paragraph (a) to the occupier of the *workplace*;

(c) *inform the Commissioner —*

*(i) as soon as is reasonably practicable, if the examination shows that the lifting gear cannot continue to be used safely unless repairs are made; or*

*(ii) in any other case, within 28 days of the completion of the examination, of the results of the examination in a manner acceptable to the Commissioner; and*

*(d) exercise all due diligence in making any certification or in conducting any test or examination of any lifting gear under this regulation.*

(10) It shall be the duty of the owner of a lifting gear to ensure that it is —

- (a) of good construction, sound material, adequate strength and free from patent defect; and
- (b) properly maintained.

(11) An inspector may at any time test any lifting gear and may prohibit its further use if he is not satisfied that the lifting gear is safe for the use to which it is put.

(12) Any person who contravenes any prohibition of an inspector under paragraph (11) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

## 21. Lifting appliances and lifting machines

(1) No lifting appliance or lifting machine shall be used unless an authorised examiner has —

- (a) tested and examined the lifting appliance or lifting machine; and
  - (b) issued and signed a certificate of test and examination, specifying the safe working load of the lifting appliance or lifting machine.
- (2) The certificate of test and examination referred to in paragraph (1) (b) shall be kept available for inspection.
- (3) Every lifting appliance and lifting machine shall be thoroughly examined by an authorised examiner at least once every year or at such other intervals as the Commissioner may determine.
- (4) Every crane, crab and winch shall be provided with a readily accessible and efficient brake or other safety device —
- (a) which will prevent the fall of the load when suspended; and
  - (b) by which the load can be effectively controlled while being lowered.
- (5) Every hand winch shall be fitted with an efficient pawl capable of sustaining the safe working load.
- (6) Every lifting appliance and lifting machine —
- (a) shall be conspicuously marked with its safe working load or loads and a distinctive number or other means of identification; and
  - (b) in the case of a jib crane so constructed that the safe working load may be varied by the raising or lowering of the jib, shall have an accurate indicator, which must be placed so as to be clearly visible to the driver of the jib crane, that shows the radius of the jib at any time and the safe working load corresponding to that radius.
- (7) No lifting appliance or lifting machine shall be loaded beyond its safe working load except by an authorised examiner or an inspector for the purpose of testing such lifting appliance or lifting machine.
- (8) Every lifting appliance and lifting machine shall be adequately and securely supported and —
- (a) every rope, chain or wire;
  - (b) every part of a stage, framework or other structure; and
  - (c) every mast, beam, pole or other article of plant supporting any part of the lifting appliance or lifting machine, shall be of good construction, sound material and adequate strength, having regard to the nature of the lifting appliance, its lifting and reaching capacity and the circumstances of its use.
- (9) All rails on which a travelling crane moves, and every track on which the carriage of a transporter or runway moves shall —
- (a) be of proper size and adequate strength;
  - (b) have an even running surface;
  - (c) be properly laid, adequately supported or suspended; and
  - (d) be properly maintained.
- (10) If any person at work at any place in a [workplace](#) is on or near the wheel tracks of an overhead travelling crane where he would be liable to be struck by the crane, effective measures shall be taken to ensure that the crane does not approach within 6 metres of that place.
- (11) If any person at work in a workplace is not on or near the wheel tracks of an overhead travelling crane but is in a place above floor level where he would be liable to be struck by an overhead travelling crane, or by any load carried by the crane, effective measures shall be taken to warn him of the approach of the crane unless the work of the person is so connected with or dependent on the movements of the crane as to make the warning unnecessary.
- (12) A lifting machine shall not be operated except by —
- (a) a person trained and competent to operate that machine; or
  - (b) a person under training who is under the direct supervision of a qualified person.
- (13) No person below the age of 18 years shall be at work —
- (a) operating any lifting machine driven by mechanical power; or
  - (b) giving signals to the operator of any lifting machine.
- (14) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) in which any lifting appliance or lifting machine is used to comply with paragraphs (1) to (13).
- (15) It shall be the duty of an authorised examiner to —



- (a) issue and sign a certificate, in a form determined by the Commissioner, of the result of the examination referred to in paragraph (3);
- (b) provide the certificate referred to in sub-paragraph (a) to the occupier of the *workplace*;
- (c) inform the Commissioner —*
- (i) as soon as is reasonably practicable, if the examination shows that the lifting appliance or lifting machine cannot continue to be used safely unless repairs are made; or*
- (ii) in any other case, within 28 days of the completion of the examination, of the results of the examination in a manner acceptable to the Commissioner; and*
- (d) exercise all due diligence in making any certification or in conducting any test or examination of any lifting appliance or lifting machine under this regulation.*

- (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.

- (17) An inspector may at any time test any lifting appliance or lifting machine and may prohibit its further use if he is not satisfied that the lifting appliance or lifting machine is safe for the use to which it is being put.
- (18) Any person who contravenes any prohibition of an inspector under paragraph (17) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

## **22. Register of lifting gears, etc.**

It shall be the duty of the occupier of a *workplace* to keep a register containing such particulars as the Commissioner may specify with respect to the lifting gears, lifting appliances and lifting machines to which regulations 20 and 21 apply.

## **23. Measures to be taken to prevent falls**

*(1) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a workplace to ensure that all openings in floors of the workplace are securely covered or fenced unless the nature of the work renders such covering or fencing impracticable.*

~~*(2) For every staircase in a workplace or which affords a means of exit from the workplace, a substantial handrail shall be provided and maintained, which — (Deleted under WSH (General Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2014)*~~

~~*(a) if the staircase has an open side, shall be on that side; and*~~

~~*(b) if the staircase has 2 open sides, shall be on both sides.*~~

~~*(Deleted under WSH (General Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2014)*~~

- (3) Any open side of a staircase in a *workplace* shall be guarded by the provision and maintenance of a lower rail or other effective means.

- (4) Every teagle opening or similar doorway used for hoisting or lowering goods or materials in a *workplace*, whether by mechanical power or otherwise, shall be —

- (a) securely fenced; and
- (b) provided with a secure handhold on each side of the opening or doorway.

- (5) Any fencing referred to in paragraph (4) shall —

- (a) be properly maintained; and
- (b) except when goods or materials are being hoisted or lowered at the opening or doorway, be kept in position.

~~*(6) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a workplace to comply with paragraphs (1) to (5). (Deleted under WSH (General Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2014)*~~

- (7) Subject to paragraph (8), any person who has to work at a place from which he would be liable to fall —

- (a) a distance of more than 2 metres; or
- (b) into any substance which is likely to cause drowning or asphyxiation,
- shall be provided with a secure foothold and handhold at the place so far as is reasonably practicable for ensuring his safety.

- (8) Where it is not reasonably practicable to provide a secure foothold or handhold as required under paragraph (7), other suitable means such as a safety harness or safety belt shall be provided for ensuring the safety of every person working at such places.

- (9) Where a safety harness or safety belt is provided under paragraph (8) —



- (a) there shall be sufficient and secured anchorage, by means of a life line or otherwise for the safety harness or safety belt; and
- (b) the anchorage shall not be lower than the level of the working position of the person wearing the safety harness or safety belt.

(10) It shall be the duty of the employer of the person referred to in paragraph (7) to comply with paragraphs (7), (8) and (9).

(11) It shall be the duty of the employer of a person who is exposed to the risk of falling into water and of drowning to provide —

- (a) equipment and means of rescuing and resuscitating drowning persons; and
- (b) suitable life jackets or other equipment for keeping such persons afloat in the event that they fall into the water.

(12) No person shall require, permit or direct any person to work at a place from which he would be liable to fall —

- (a) a distance of more than 2 metres; or
- (b) into any substance which is likely to cause drowning or asphyxiation, unless the requirements of paragraphs (7), (8) and (9) have been complied with.

(13) Any person who contravenes paragraph (12) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

#### **24. Storage of goods**

(1) All goods, articles and substances which are stored, stacked or placed in a [workplace](#) shall be stored, stacked or placed —

- (a) in such manner as not to interfere with —
  - (i) the adequate distribution of natural or artificial light;
  - (ii) the proper operation of any machinery or other equipment;
  - (iii) the unobstructed use of passageways or traffic lanes; and
  - (iv) the efficient functioning of sprinkler systems or the use of other fire-fighting equipment;
- (b) on a firm foundation not liable to settle;
- (c) in such manner as not to overload the foundation or floors; and
- (d) in such manner, and using such supporting structures as may be necessary, as to ensure the stability, and to prevent the collapse, of the goods, articles or substances.

(2) Any goods, articles or substances which are stored, stacked or placed in a workplace shall not be stored, stacked or placed against a wall or partition unless the wall or partition is of sufficient strength to withstand the pressure.

(3) If loads are to be suspended from the roof of any [workplace](#), the roof shall be of sufficient strength to carry the loads.

(4) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a [workplace](#) to comply with paragraphs (1), (2) and (3).