



MOM/OSHD/2019-03

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Do not Bypass or Override Safety Devices of Mobile Cranes

It has come to MOM's attention that some safety devices such as overload, hook over-hoist, boom over-hoist or over-lowering limiter installed in Mobile Cranes¹ had been intentionally bypassed or overridden without proper authorisation during lifting operation. MOM warns all parties that such practices are dangerous and unacceptable. MOM reminds all Crane Operators, Lifting Supervisors, occupiers, owners of Mobile Cranes, and personnel involved in lifting operation that it is an offence under the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Act to bypass or override such safety devices without proper authorisation. MOM will not hesitate to take stringent enforcement action against any person who wilfully bypass or override such safety devices on Mobile Cranes.

Implementation of Authorisation System for Overriding of Safety Devices

2 This circular calls for the implementation of the following Authorisation System for overriding of safety devices on Mobile Cranes excluding Lorry Loaders:

- For Mobile Cranes with key-operated bypass switches, the bypass keys shall be kept within an access-controlled area by an authorised person at all times during lifting operations. Any request for use of the bypass key shall be assessed and permitted only after prior approval is granted by the authorised person.
- For Mobile Cranes with non-key-operated bypass switches or keys that cannot be removed from the switches, the bypass switches shall be enclosed within a secure housing that can be locked. The key to this lock shall be kept within an access-controlled area by an authorised person at all times during lifting operations. Any request for use of the key shall be assessed and permitted only after prior approval is granted by the authorised person.
- Crane Operators shall ensure that all bypass switches are set to the "off" position at the start of each work-shift, or before access to the bypass switches has been locked out; and
- Lifting Supervisors shall check and ensure that all bypass switches in Mobile Cranes are set to the "off" position at the start of each work-shift.

Active Monitoring of Data Logger Reports for Unsafe Acts

3 Occupiers, crane owners and employers are strongly encouraged to review the data logger reports regularly to monitor and assess the lifting operations for any anomaly or unsafe situation. If an unsafe act or non-compliance involving the overriding of safety device(s) is detected, the occupiers, crane owners or employers shall conduct an investigation and take necessary remedial actions to prevent recurrence.

Duty-holders to Ensure Safe Operation of Mobile Cranes

4 MOM would like to remind all persons, including Crane Operators, that **the activation of any bypass switch in the crane to override safety devices during lifting operations and for lifting of loads beyond the safe working load of the crane are strictly prohibited.** Under Regulation 21(7) of the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations, lifting appliances and lifting machines can only be loaded beyond their safe working loads when directed by an Authorised Examiner or an inspector for the purpose of testing such lifting appliance or lifting machine.

5 The above circular is for immediate compliance.

¹ Mobile crane means a crane mounted on a truck, crawler or on wheels and includes any crane of a type shown in the First Schedule of the Workplace Safety and Health (Operation of Cranes) Regulations 2011.