

HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT 10

FALLING ITEMS FROM STEEL REINFORCEMENT CAGES



The Incident

During the process of turning the steel reinforcement cage on the Diaphragm wall operations from the horizontal position to the vertical position so that the steel reinforcement cage could be lowered into the Diaphragm wall excavation a 200mm piece of 16mm diameter reinforcement steel bar fell out of the cage, on this incident no one was injured. However the potential was there to cause harm.

What Went Wrong

- The steel reinforcement cages are manufactured off site and part of the inspection process is before the cages leaves the workshop that the cages are inspected for loose items. The small off cut of reinforcement steel bar was not picked up on this inspection
- MVB have an inspection process to check for loose items and again this small section of reinforcement steel bar was not spotted
- During the turning of the steel reinforcement cage the 200mm section of steel bar fell to the ground
- The reinforcing steel bar was hard to detect as it's the same colour as the cages its self

Key Learning Points

- The steel reinforcement cage manufacturers have change their fabrication process to omit the necessity for the use of the small sections of the reinforcement bar to be used in the process of manufacturing the cages
- All tools and equipment used in the manufacturing of the reinforcement cages are to be painted with high visibility paint so that during the inspection process they are easily identifiable
- A renewed method statement has been briefed to manufactures workforce to high light the change in process of putting the cages together
- Awareness training has also be given to the manufactures workforce on the potential dangers of leaving item in the cages during fabrication which can fall from the cages
- MVB to visit the manufactures periodically to ensure that the renewed method statement is being followed .

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