



Ports, Customs & Free Zone Corporation













SAFETY ALERT

A worker recently escaped serious injury when he was struck by a piece of plywood approximately 600mm x 400mm when it fell from the 23rd storey of a high rise office block currently under construction. The accident investigation identified that the plywood fell during the striking of formwork and that the standard of edge protection provided was poor; toeboards were not fitted to the building edges on all floors. Although the contractor had provided a protective fan this was located on level 17 and extended only 1.2 metres out from the building which made if ineffective.

All contractors working on Nakheel projects should ensure that adequate protective measures are in place to prevent this type of accident.

The following must be adhered to:-

- A risk assessment must be carried out to identify high risk activities/areas during the construction of the building or tower that may result in materials falling.
- Toeboards must be fitted to edges where materials can fall from heights.
- Protective fans must be fitted to all high rise towers to ensure that site personnel, property and the public are protected.
- Protective fans must be moved progressively to ensure they are kept close to areas where materials may fall.
- Protective fans must extend sufficiently to contain any materials that may fall.
- Good housekeeping is essential in order to reduce the amount of material/debris that may fall.
- Where overhead working is being carried out and protective fans cannot be provided (exceptional circumstances) exclusion zones must be in place and policed.
- 0 Priority must be given to measures which prevent materials falling in the first place.

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