



Jindal Stainless Limited

Improving safety during material handling

Award: Safety
Category: Safety training

Challenge

Material handling is a daily function in the workplace. Often the task is taken for granted, with little regard for the consequences if it is not done in the correct and safe manner. To reduce the chance of employee injury and/or damage to nearby machinery, attention needs to be paid to how the material or goods are loaded or unloaded.

At Jindal Stainless we faced the following challenges:

- Incorrect operation of material handling equipment by drivers
- Workers bypassing safety interlocks
- Incorrect tools and equipment being used to handle materials
- Unsafe material handling practices.

Action

To overcome these challenges, a Safe Material Handling training programme has been designed and implemented to raise awareness of the issue. It is provided to workers who are directly involved in handling materials. In addition to the awareness training, engineering controls have been implemented to ensure safe and smooth material handling.

The following actions have been taken:

- Special training programmes on Safe Material Handling and Lifting Tools and Equipment are conducted by the Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) department. Crane operators, mobile equipment drivers, riggers, and their assistants are the target audience for the training
 - A daily checklist has been devised and implemented and this is monitored by shift leaders
 - Before starting their equipment, the driver must ensure the equipment is in good working order
 - Maintenance teams have started to conduct regular preventive maintenance instead of just breakdown maintenance
- All safety interlocks have been checked and made operational
 - Surprise audits are conducted on all material-handling equipment.

Outcome

After providing the awareness training and implementing engineering controls, the average number of unsafe acts and conditions has dropped from 79 in the first quarter of 2013 to just 45 in the last quarter of 2014.