



## Work Safety Alert Collapse of Falsework

1. **Date of Accident :** July 2014
2. **Place of Accident :** A building construction site
3. **Summary :**

While the concreting of a floor slab was in progress, the metal falsework supporting the slab formwork suddenly collapsed. As a result, three workers working on the said floor slab fell a distance of over 4 metres and sustained injuries.

### 4. **Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :**

To prevent collapse of falsework, contractors/employers should:

- adopt task-specific approach in conducting risk assessment;
- formulate task-specific method statement detailing the proper sequence of work and appropriate safety control measures;
- appoint a professional engineer with adequate competence and experience to design a falsework that is in conformity with established standards, of sufficient load bearing capacity and stability;
- ensure that all site personnel and workers involved are competent by virtue of their knowledge, skills and experience with regard to their respective duties;
- ensure that the falsework is only erected, altered, used or dismantled under the direct supervision of a competent supervisor;
- ensure that the falsework is used only if it has been thoroughly checked by a competent person and further cross-checked by an independent checking engineer after erection/substantial alteration;



- ensure clear delineation of safety responsibilities and effective coordination and communication among the principal contractor, sub-contractors and the design engineer;
- suspend all work immediately in the event of any undue movement of the falsework until the irregularities causing the movement have been clearly identified and fully rectified, and the falsework has been certified safe by both the competent person and the independent checking engineer; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict compliance with all the above safety measures and precautions.

## 5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes : Safety at Work \(Falsework - Prevention of Collapse\)](#)<sup>1</sup>

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### DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

<sup>1</sup> Click to view the document