



Work Safety Alert Collapse of a Working Platform on Metal Falsework

1. Date of Accident : November 2016

2. Place of Accident : A building site

3. Summary :

While four workers were erecting working platforms on a metal falsework, part of a working platform suddenly collapsed. The four workers fell onto the ground for more than 7 metres and sustained serious bodily injuries. One of them passed away the next day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in falsework erection/ alteration/ dismantling work, the contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work and the working environment;
- formulating appropriate safe work methods and procedures detailing the proper sequences of work for the erection/ alteration/ dismantling of the falsework;
- appointing a professional engineer with adequate qualifications, competence and experience to design the falsework that is in



conformity with established standards, and of sufficient load bearing capacity and stability;

- ensuring that the falsework is erected/ altered strictly in accordance with the design drawings, specification and method statement; and is erected/ altered/ dismantled strictly following the safe work methods, procedures and safety measures;
- ensuring that the falsework is erected/ altered/ dismantled by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person who should have sufficient technical knowledge and management skills, and be able to read and understand the design drawings, specification and method statement of the work;
- ensuring that all site personnel and workers involved are competent by virtue of their knowledge, skills and experience with regard to their respective duties;
- providing suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- providing every worker/ employee who is engaged in erecting/ dismantling/ altering the falsework with a suitable safety harness which should be continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchorage system, and ensuring the proper use of the fall arresting equipment by the workers/ employees while working at height;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)¹

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.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

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