



Work Safety Alert

Fall from Height while Erecting a Truss-out Bamboo Scaffold

- 1. Date of Accident :** October 2015
- 2. Place of Accident :** A serviced apartment building
- 3. Summary :**

A scaffolder fell to his death from 12/F of a serviced apartment building to the ground while erecting a truss-out bamboo scaffold at the external wall of the building.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent any person from falling from height, contractors/employers engaged in erecting/dismantling/alteration of truss-out scaffolds should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the nature of work and to identify all associated potential hazards;
- formulate appropriate safe work methods and procedures for working at height with due regard to the results of the risk assessments;
- ensure that all scaffold components are of sound material, good construction, adequate strength and free from patent defects, and are properly maintained;
- ensure that bamboo members used in the construction of scaffolds are straight, sound and free from cracks, gnarls, irregular knots, dry rot, worm-eaten spots and other defects affecting the strength of the bamboo members;



- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- ensure that scaffolds are erected/dismantled/alterd by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person;
- provide every worker engaged in erecting/dismantling/altering of scaffolds with a suitable safety harness that is attached continuously to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system, and ensure the proper use of them by workers;
- provide all workers involved with relevant safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are conversant with the safe work procedures and safety measures, such as proper use of personal fall arresting system; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and supervision system to ensure that the above safety precautionary measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Occupational Fatalities related to Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolding Works](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



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