



Work Safety Alert

Fall from Height while Installing Cable Conduits

- 1. Date of Accident :** November 2015
- 2. Place of Accident :** A newly built industrial building
- 3. Summary :**

A worker while working on a metal platform erected above the false ceiling of an upper floor of a newly built industrial building to install cable conduits, fell onto the floor for about 3 metres through an opening of the metal platform. He sustained serious injury and subsequently passed away in late December 2015.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/employees from falling from height, the contractors/ employers engaged in work in ceiling voids should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all associated potential hazards, taking into account the nature of work and the working environment;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- fence all edges or cover all openings of working platforms from or through which persons are liable to fall in an effective manner;
- ensure that every covering provided for an opening is so constructed as to prevent the fall of persons, materials and articles; and is clearly and boldly marked as to show its purpose or be securely fixed in position;



- ensure that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of a working platform is not less than 900 millimetres and not more than 1150 millimetres for a top guard-rail; not less than 450 millimetres and not more than 600 millimetres for an intermediate guard-rail; and that the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier is not less than 200 millimetres;
- where protection of openings, dangerous edges or other void spaces is impracticable, provide every worker engaged in the work 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 the worker/employee;
- provide each worker/employee employed at the workplace with a suitable safety helmet with a chin-strap and take all reasonable steps to ensure the wearing of the same by the worker;
- ensure that every place of work is adequately and suitably lit to the extent necessary to secure that worker's safety;
- provide all workers/employees with relevant safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)¹

¹ Click to view the document



- [An Analysis on Occupational Fatalities - Casebook Volume 2](#)¹
- [Lighting Assessment in the Workplace](#)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.