



Work Safety Alert

Fall from Height while Replacing Air Duct Insulation Material

1. **Date of Accident :** January 2016

2. **Place of Accident :** A factory

3. **Summary :**

A worker while replacing the air duct insulation material of an air-conditioning system above the false ceiling of a factory, fell about 3 metres to his death through the false ceiling onto the ground.

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

To prevent any persons from falling from height, the contractors/ employers engaged in air-conditioning work should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the nature of the work and the working environment to identify all associated potential hazards;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for working at height with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- properly fence off any unprotected edges of working platform, gangway, or run through which persons are liable to fall;
- ensure that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of a working platform, gangway or run 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 edges of working platform, gangway or run 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;
- provide each worker 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;
- provide all workers involved with necessary 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 \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height¹](#)

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.

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