



Work Safety Alert **Fall from Height while engaging Air-conditioning Work**

1. **Date of Accident :** April 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** A Plant Room of a Commercial Building
3. **Summary :**

A worker while carrying out air-conditioning work inside a plant room of a commercial building was believed to have fallen to his death from a height of about 4 metres above 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 in identifying all potential hazards associated with the air-conditioning work, taking into account the nature of the work and the working environment;
- formulate appropriate safe work methods and procedures for working at height with due regard to the results of the risk assessment;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- provide and ensure the use of suitable working platforms for the work being carried out at height;
- ensure that every working platform is closely boarded or planked and provided with suitable toe-boards; and every board or plank is rest securely and evenly on its support;



- 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 and 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;
- ensure that every working platform is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before first use and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days;
- where the provision of working platforms is impracticable, provide every worker engaged in the work with a suitable safety harness that is continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system; and ensure the proper use of them by the workers/ employees throughout the work;
- 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 proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee;
- provide all workers/ employees 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 \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



- [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.

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