



Work Safety Alert Fall from a Wooden A-Ladder

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** A ground floor shop under renovation
3. **Summary :**

A worker while installing water pipes near the ceiling of a ground floor shop unit fell about 2.6m from a wooden A-ladder to the ground. He sustained serious head injury and passed away a few days later.

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

To prevent any persons from falling from height while undertaking renovation works, the contractors/ employers responsible for the works should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with any work processes, particular those involving working-at-height, taking into account the work nature and the working environment;
- formulate appropriate safe work methods and procedures for the work processes that involve 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;
- prohibit using ladders for working at height;
- provide and ensure the use of suitable working platforms or elevating work platforms where appropriate for the work that required to be carried out at height, which should comply with the following requirements:-



- width of the platform should be not less than 400mm;
 - the platform should be closely boarded or planked;
 - the height of top guard-rail above the platform surface should be between 900mm to 1150mm while the height of the intermediate guard-rail above the platform surface should be within 450mm and 600mm;
 - the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier should not be less than 200mm.
- 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 platform is not reasonably practicable, provide all relevant workers/ employees with suitable safety harnesses and provide at the workplace where working-at-height is to be undertaken suitable and secure anchor point(s), independent lifeline(s) or fall arresting system(s) for the continuous attachment of the safety harnesses worn by all workers/ employees engaged in working-at-height;
 - take steps to ensure the proper use of the safety harnesses, anchor points, independent lifelines and fall arresting systems 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 the necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures before they are assigned to work; and
 - establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure the above safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms¹](#)
- [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.

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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