



Work Safety Alert

Fall from a Canopy

1. **Date of Accident :** Nov 2015
2. **Place of Accident :** Outside a retail shop
3. **Summary :**

A worker fell about 5 metres to death from a canopy to the ground while dismantling a signboard of a ground floor retail shop at the external wall of the building.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent any person from falling from height, the proprietor/ employer engaged in dismantling work at external walls should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the nature of the work and the working environment;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the dismantling work with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- strictly prohibiting access to or working on unprotected canopy or other unsafe places;
- providing and properly maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- providing and ensuring the use of suitable working platforms or elevating work platforms where practicable for the dismantling work and refraining from using ladders as far as reasonably practicable;



- where use of working platforms/ elevating working platforms is impracticable, providing and ensuring the proper use of suitable fall arresting system by workers;
- properly suspending/ supporting the object to be dismantled, e.g. by using a suitable lifting appliance and lifting gears, to prevent its undue movement during dismantling;
- if a lifting appliance is used, ensuring that it is only operated by a person who is trained and competent to operate it and holds a valid certificate if applicable;
- appointing a competent person to be in charge of the lifting appliance when the object to be dismantled is being left suspended from it;
- ensuring that every lifting appliance and lifting gear is tested, thorough examined and certified safe by a competent examiner before it is used;
- providing 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
- establishing and implementing 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](#)
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear\) Regulations¹](#)

¹ Click to view document



- [Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)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.