



Work Safety Alert

Fall through an Upper Floor Opening

- 1. Date of Accident :** August 2015
- 2. Place of Accident :** A building construction site
- 3. Summary :**

A worker fell about 5 metres to his death through a floor opening while he was engaged in clearing up debris on an upper floor of a building under construction.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent any person from falling from height at any openings, edges or other void spaces, contractors/employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the working environment to identify all potential hazards on site, including falling hazard;
- formulate safe work method and procedures with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- properly fence off or cover any floor openings, dangerous edges or other void spaces over or through which persons are liable to fall;
- ensure that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of the floor openings, dangerous edges or other void spaces shall be not less than 900mm and not more than 1150mm for a top guard-rail and not less than 450mm and not more than 600mm for an intermediate guard-rail; and that the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier shall be not less than 200mm.



- ensure that every covering provided for an opening shall be so constructed as to prevent the fall of persons, materials and articles; and should be clearly and boldly marked as to show its purpose or be securely fixed in position;
- provide and ensure the use of suitable fall protection devices by workers, where protection of openings, dangerous edges or other void spaces are impracticable;
- provide relevant safety information, instruction and training to the workers involved; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that 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 Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)
- [An Analysis on Occupational Fatalities - Casebook Volume 2¹](#)

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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