



Work Safety Alert **Fall from Height**

- 1. Date of Accident :** March 2023
- 2. Place of Accident :** A building site
- 3. Summary :**

While a worker was carrying out debris clearance work on 15/F of a public residential building under construction, he fell from a wall opening onto the canopy on 1/F. He was certified dead on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent workers/ employees from falling from height at work, contractors/ employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work and the work environment, particularly those dangerous places where workers/ employees will work and are liable to fall;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and follow the requirements of safety legislation and guidelines to minimise the risks exposed to the workers/ employees, such as falling hazard;
- avoid work-above-ground where possible by, for example, providing and using specific hand tools to allow the work to be done safely on the ground;
- if work-above-ground cannot be avoided, provide and ensure the proper use of suitable working platforms, which should comply with the following requirements: -



- with a width of not less than 400mm;
 - be closely boarded or planked;
 - be provided with guard-rails in that the height of the top guard-rail above the platform surface should be between 900mm and 1150mm while the height of the intermediate guard-rail above the platform surface should be between 450mm and 600mm;
 - be provided with toe-boards or other similar barriers with a height of not 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 a suitable working platform cannot be erected (for example, due to restrictive work space), provide and ensure the use of suitable step platforms or hop-up platforms which conform to international or national standards with the compliance of relevant statutory safety requirements;
 - where the provision of working platforms, step platforms or hop-up platforms to prevent fall from wall openings is not reasonably practicable and working at such dangerous places cannot be avoided, provide all workers/ employees involved with suitable safety harnesses and provide suitable and secure anchor point(s), independent lifeline(s) or fall arresting system(s) for continuous attachment of the safety harnesses worn by the workers/ employees at the workplace;
 - 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 and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work, and ensure their proper use by the workers/ employees;
 - provide each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable



safety helmet equipped with a chin strap and ensure the proper wearing of the same by the worker/ employee throughout the work;

- provide all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and 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 that all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference:

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [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 System](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)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.

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

¹ Click to view document