



## **Work Safety Alert** **Fall from Scaffolding**

- 1. Date of Accident :** March 2024
- 2. Place of Accident :** A building site
- 3. Summary :**

While a worker was suspected to have conducted work on a double-row bamboo scaffold erected on the external wall of a building under construction, he was suspected of having fallen from a height and plunged to the ground. He was certified dead on the spot.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height while undertaking any work on a bamboo scaffold, the contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing 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, the work environment and the construction of the scaffold;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments and following the requirements of safety legislation, relevant codes of practice and guidelines;
- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work, and ensure their proper use by the workers/ employees;
- ensuring the scaffold is suitable for the work such as a double-row bamboo scaffold, and provide and ensure the proper use of suitable



working platforms on the scaffold for work that cannot be safely done on or from the ground or from part of a permanent structure;

- ensuring that every working platform of the bamboo scaffold is protected by (i) not less than two horizontal bamboo members of the scaffold spaced at intervals between 750mm to 900mm (or provided with suitable guard-rails); and (ii) toe-boards or other similar barriers erected on the platform with the height of not less than 200mm;
- ensuring that every working platform is closely boarded or planked; and every board or plank rests securely and evenly on its supports;
- ensuring that all nearby dangerous edges, openings or void spaces, through which any person is liable to fall a distance of 2 metres or more, are properly fenced off or covered;
- ensuring that the scaffold is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before being first use and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days;
- where provision of working platforms or protection of dangerous edges, openings or void spaces are not reasonably practicable, setting up a fall arresting system (or alike system) by providing every worker/ employee concerned with a suitable safety harness and ensuring that the harness the worker wears is continuously attached to a suitable anchorage system from a safe place with necessary steps taken to ensure that the worker is using the system properly throughout the work;
- providing all workers/ employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.



## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height<sup>1</sup>](#)

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### 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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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document