



Work Safety Alert **Fell Together with a Collapsed Metal Platform**

- 1. Date of Accident :** January 2023
- 2. Place of Accident :** A construction site
- 3. Summary :**

While a male worker was standing on a platform of a metal formwork and giving signal for lifting an adjoining formwork, the platform where the worker was standing on detached from the formwork and collapsed suddenly. Thus, he fell together with the collapsed platform onto the ground. He sustained serious injury and passed away two days later.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in metal formwork, the contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe plant and a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent engineer with adequate qualifications, competence and experience to design the metal formwork that is in conformity with established standards and capable of safely sustaining all loads to be applied to the structure, particularly the sufficiency and strength of its supports to the working platform;
- ensuring that all components of the metal formwork with working platform (including its welding joints) should be of sound material, good construction and adequate strength, free from patent defect and securely supported to prevent collapse or undue movement;
- ensuring the metal formwork with working platform (including welding joints) has been properly constructed in compliance with the drawings and specifications before allowing workers/ employees to work on it;



- ensuring that the metal formwork with working platform (including welding joints) is checked and maintained regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to ensure it is in good construction and safe for the work;
- 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 working environment, the construction and structural stability of the metal formwork with working platform, and the lifting operation to be carried out near the working platform;
- 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 and guidelines;
- where lifting metal formwork to be carried out close to a working platform, ensuring the following precautions have been taken
 - devising/ implementing a lifting plan with due consideration to the size, shape and weight of all loads to be lifted, the wind condition and the slinging/rigging method for preventing any unintended movement of the loads;
 - appointing a competent and experienced lifting supervisor to oversee the lifting operation in accordance with the lifting plan;
 - ensuring adequate clearances are kept with extreme care exercised in lifting operation while the loads have to be handled in the vicinity of persons;
 - ensuring no workers/ employees work or stay underneath the metal formwork being lifted;
 - providing a tag line or control rope for control of any undue swing or rotation of the loads where necessary;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety



information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and 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](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes](#)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.

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