



Work Safety Alert **Fall from Height while Erecting a Truss-out Scaffold**

1. **Date of Accident :** November 2021
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential building
3. **Summary :**

A scaffolder while staying on the top of an air conditioner hood to prepare for truss-out scaffold erection work at the external wall of an upper floor unit of a residential building, plunged to his death onto the podium on 2/F level of the building.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height, contractors/ employers engaged in erection/ dismantling/ alteration of truss-out scaffolds 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;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation, relevant code of practice and guidelines;
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- ensure that scaffolds are erected/ dismantled/ altered by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person;



- provide every worker/ employee engaged in erection/ dismantling/ alteration of scaffolds with a suitable safety harness that is attached continuously to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system, and ensure the proper use of them by the workers/ employees concerned throughout the work;
- ensure that all components of the fall protection system are able to withstand any loads or forces that might be imposed on them and should be such that they cannot be accidentally removed, dislodged or become unfastened;
- ensure that the lanyards used in the fall protection system comply with international standards and are securely connected to an anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in a manner that safeguards a person in case of fall;
- 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 involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all 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](#)
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Occupational Fatalities related to Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolding Works¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height¹](#)

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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