



Work Safety Alert **Fallen with a Collapsed Suspended Working Platform**

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2022
2. **Place of Accident :** A building renovation site
3. **Summary :**

While two workers were demonstrating the mode of operation of a temporary suspended working platform (“SWP”) on the roof of a residential building under renovation, the SWP suddenly tilted and fell. As a result, the two workers fell together with the SWP from the roof to the ground.

4. Work Safety Alert for Owners/ Contractors/ Employers :

To ensure the safe operation of SWP (including its functional/ operational test), the owners/ contractors/ employers should provide and maintain safe plant and a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- ensuring the SWP is of good mechanical construction, made of strong and sound materials;
- ensuring the SWP is properly maintained and free from patent defect;
- ensuring the SWP is properly installed and anchored to the building or structure in accordance with the manufacturer’s specification and under the advice of professional engineers;
- ensuring each unit of the SWP should be so designed that an omission or failure of any individual joints or fixing component will not result in the structural collapse of the working platform;
- ensuring that all fittings and connections should be so designed that no part can become accidentally detached when assembled;



- ensuring the SWP is certified safe after load test and thorough examination by competent personnel before use;
- ensuring the SWP is regularly inspected, tested and properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in order to ensure that it is in safe working condition at all times;
- ensuring that the inspection, test, maintenance and repair of the SWP are performed by persons who are suitably trained and competent for such work;
- ensuring all workers/ employees working on the SWP have received the recognised training and obtained a certificate;
- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work related to SWP, taking into account the nature of work and the work environment;
- formulating detailed safe work procedures and safety precautions with due regard to the results of assessment, and in conformity with the instruction given in the machine manufacturer's manual;
- ensuring the SWP that is raised or lowered by winch or climber shall be provided at each suspension point, with a safety rope having an automatic safety device mounted on it, such that the safety rope with the automatic safety device will support the platform in the event of the failure of the primary suspension rope, the winch, climber or any part of the mechanism for raising or lowering the platform;
- ensuring the SWP should be adequately and securely supported and the arrangement for its fixing and anchoring should be adequately to secure its safety;
- ensuring that the SWP is not used for carrying persons unless the wire ropes or chains for raising, lowering and suspension of the platform are securely attached to the outriggers or other supports;
- whereas functional/ operational test to be carried out, ensuring the working platform should be positioned as close as possible to the



ground or landing level during the test;

- ensuring all workers/ employees carried on a SWP wear a safety belt that is attached to an independent lifeline or a suitable anchorage with fittings which are properly maintained;
- 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 :

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Suspended Working Platforms\) Regulation¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Safe Use and Operation of Suspended Working Platforms¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on the Inspection, Thorough Examination and Testing of Suspended Working Platforms¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)
- [Safety Hints on Operation of Suspended Working Platform¹](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)

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