



## Work Safety Alert Displacement of a Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2017
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential building under construction
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was carrying out metal work on a bamboo scaffold that was erected covering a void of a ramp, the scaffold suddenly displaced and tilted. The worker fell about 8 metres through the void to the ground and sustained fatal injury.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height while working on scaffolds, the contractors/ employers responsible for the work 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 with proper procedures according to the results of the risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation and relevant codes of practice;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- ensure that each scaffold of special design is constructed in accordance with the design and drawings of professional engineer and the stability of the supporting structure is justified by recognized engineering principles;
- where it is not practicable to adopt solid ground as foundation, ensure that metal brackets or other means of suitable design are used as support for each standard of the scaffold; and these supports are of adequate strength and securely fixed onto substantial structure to hold the vertical and lateral loads imposed onto the scaffold;



- ensure that the scaffold is made up of suitable and sound materials of sufficient strength and capacity for the purpose for which it is used, and every part thereof is securely supported or suspended;
- ensure that the scaffold is properly maintained in safe working condition;
- ensure that every scaffold is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before being taken into use for the first time and at regular intervals thereafter not exceeding 14 days;
- ensure that suitable working platform is erected at every work location on every lift for a closely spaced bamboo scaffold;
- provide each worker/ employee involved in the work with a suitable safety helmet equipped with a Y-type 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 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>
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)<sup>1</sup>

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



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**DISCLAIMER**

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