



Work Safety Alert **Fall from Upper Floor of a Superstructure**

- 1. Date of Accident :** March 2017
- 2. Place of Accident :** A superstructure under construction
- 3. Summary :**

While conducting curtain wall installation work of a superstructure under construction, three workers fell from upper floor respectively to the ground and onto a bamboo platform below. One worker died and the two other workers sustained multiple injuries.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees undertaking work at the external wall of a superstructure under construction from falling from height, the contractors/ employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards that are associated with the work being carried out;
- formulate safe work methods and safe work procedures for the work, taking into consideration the results of the risk assessments and the requirements of relevant codes of practice and guidelines;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- provide and ensure the proper use of a suitable scaffold (double-row bamboo scaffold or tubular scaffold) with working platforms which shall be safe for the purpose;



- ensure that every working platform on the scaffold is closely boarded or planked; and that every board or plank is of sound construction, adequate strength and free from patent defect, rests securely and evenly on its support, and is of a thickness capable of affording adequate security having regard to the distance between the supports;
- 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 not exceeding 14 days;
- in case of a tubular scaffold, ensure that every working platform is provided with suitable guard-rails and toe-boards and that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of the working platform is not less than 900 mm and not more than 1150 mm for a top guard-rail and not less than 450 mm and not more than 600 mm for an intermediate guard-rail; or in case of a bamboo scaffold, ensure that every working platform is protected by not less than two horizontal bamboo members of the scaffold spaced at intervals between 750 mm to 900 mm; and that the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier erected on the platform is not less than 200 mm;
- where the provision of working platform is not reasonably practicable, set up a fall arresting system by providing every worker/ employee with a suitable safety harness which should be continuously attached to a suitable and secure anchorage point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system from a safe place and throughout the work, and take steps to ensure that the fall arresting system is properly used by every worker concerned;
- 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 before they are assigned to work; 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](#)
- [Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents Related to Work-at-Height¹](#)
- [Guidelines on the Design and Construction of Bamboo Scaffolds by Buildings Department¹](#)
- [Guidelines on Planking Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds by Construction Industry Council¹](#)

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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