



## Work Safety Alert Fall from a Bamboo Scaffold inside a Lift Shaft

1. **Date of Accident :** July 2018
2. **Place of Accident :** A construction site
3. **Summary :**

While a leveller was climbing along a bamboo scaffold inside a lift shaft of a building under construction after ink marking work to return to the lift landing on 7/F, he suddenly lost his balance and plunged to the bottom of the lift shaft. He sustained severe head injury and was certified dead on the spot.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from falling from height, the contractors/ employers undertaking work-above-ground inside lift shafts 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, particularly where work-above-ground is involved;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work, taking into consideration the results of the risk assessments and following the requirements of safety legislations, 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 with working platforms for work that cannot be safely done on or from the ground or from part of a permanent structure;
- ensure that every working platform is closely boarded or planked, and every board or plank rests securely and evenly on its supports;
- ensure that every scaffold is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before taken into use for the first time, and at regular interval not exceeding 14 days;
- where provision of suitable scaffolds and working platforms is not reasonably practicable, set up a fall arresting system by providing every worker/ employee concerned with a suitable safety harness and ensure that the harness the worker/ employee wears is continuously attached to a suitable anchorage system from a safe place and throughout the work, and take necessary steps to ensure that every worker/ employee concerned is properly using the fall arresting system;
- 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 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>
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)<sup>1</sup>

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



- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Safety at Work \(Lift and Escalator\)](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)<sup>1</sup>

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**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.