



Work Safety Alert

Fall from Height While Erecting a Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** March 2018
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential building under renovation

3. **Summary :**

While a team of scaffolders were erecting a bamboo scaffold at the external wall of a residential building, part of the scaffold suddenly collapsed. Two scaffolders fell together with the collapsed part of the scaffold onto the ground for about 4 metres. One of them sustained fatal injury while the other was injured.

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

To prevent any person from falling from height, contractors/employers undertaking scaffold erecting/ dismantling/ alteration 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 and procedures for the work according to the results of risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation, relevant code of practice and guidelines;
- ensure that the scaffold is erected/ dismantled/ altered strictly in accordance with the design drawings, specification and method statement; and is erected/ dismantled/ altered strictly following the safe work methods, procedures and safety measures;



- ensure that scaffold is erected/ dismantled/ altered by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person;
- ensure that all site personnel and workers are competent by virtue of their knowledge, skills and experience with regard to their respective duties;
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- provide every worker/ employee engaged in erecting/ dismantling/ altering 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 workers/ employees concerned;
- ensure that every independent lifeline is suitably positioned and extended to a level enabling the use of which by the worker/ employee concerned to reach any place he/ she is expected to work;
- provide all workers/ employees 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 to ensure that they are conversant with the safe procedures and safety measures, such as proper use of personal fall arresting system; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and supervision system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safety Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System](#)¹
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)¹

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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