



Work Safety Alert **Fall Through a Void**

- 1. Date of Accident :** October 2020
- 2. Place of Accident :** A concrete batching plant
- 3. Summary :**

A worker while working on a working platform to conduct cleansing work of the concrete slurry filter presses in the batching plant, fell for about 4 metres onto the ground through a void between the platform and a filter press. The worker sustained serious injuries and passed away two days later.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employers from falling from height, proprietors/ employers engaged in any work at or near dangerous places with void spaces 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 there are dangerous places from which workers/ employees are liable to fall;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments to minimize the risks exposed to the workers/ employees, such as falling hazard;
- safeguard all unprotected void spaces over or through which persons are liable to fall by suitable coverings or guard-rails;



- ensure that every covering provided for a void space is so constructed as to prevent the fall of persons, materials and articles; and is clearly and boldly marked as to show its purpose or be securely fixed in position;
- ensure that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of the void spaces is not less than 900mm and not more than 1150mm for a top guard-rail and not less than 450mm and not more than 600mm for an intermediate guard-rail; and that the height of a toe-board or other similar barrier is not less than 200mm;
- where the provision of guard-rails or coverings to prevent fall from dangerous places is impracticable and working at such places cannot be avoided, set up an effective fall arresting system by providing every worker/ employee concerned with, and ensure the worker's/ employee's proper use of, a suitable safety harness with the lanyard continuously attached to a suitable anchorage throughout the work;
- where applicable, display warning notices at prominent places near the dangerous places to alert workers/ employees of the falling hazard;
- provide all workers/ employees with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and the necessary measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



職業安全及健康部
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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.