Dismantling of bamboo scaffolds

1. Work out a dismantling plan and working procedures.
2. Ensure that the dismantling work is done by trained workmen under the immediate supervision of a competent person.
3. Allow sufficient time for the dismantling work.
4. Install fences on the ground level and post up warning notices.
5. Check the strength and stability of the scaffold before dismantling.
6. Ensure that no components, which endanger the stability of the remaining structure, are removed first while dismantling work is in progress.
7. Prohibit throwing or tipping scaffolding materials from height.
8. Ensure that no materials are stored on the scaffold.
9. Use personal protective equipment.

Inspection and maintenance of bamboo scaffolds

1. The scaffold shall be inspected whether it is safe or needs to be repaired.
2. The scaffold shall be inspected immediately preceding each use and after exposure to adverse weather conditions.
3. Allow sufficient time for the dismantling work.
4. Install fences on the ground level and post up warning notices.
5. Check the strength and stability of the scaffold before dismantling.
6. Ensure that no components, which endanger the stability of the remaining structure, are removed first while dismantling work is in progress.
7. Prohibit throwing or tipping scaffolding materials from height.
8. Ensure that no materials are stored on the scaffold.
9. Use personal protective equipment.

"Competent person" means a person

- who has completed substantial training, i.e. who has satisfactorily completed a formal training in bamboo scaffolding works such as an apprenticeship in the trade of bamboo scaffolder under section 28 of the Apprenticeship Ordinance (Cap. 47) or 1-year full-time basic craft course of construction scaffolding works of the Construction Industry Council Training Academy (CICTA); or other similar bamboo scaffolding training courses/programmes; or
- who has satisfactorily passed the intermediate trade test for bamboo scaffolder of the CICTA;
- who has possessed practical experience (5 years or more) in bamboo scaffolding work;
- who has the ability to read and understand the design drawings, specifications and method statements of the scaffolding work;
- who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards;
- who is appointed in writing by the contractor and competent to perform the duty.

"Trained workman" means a person

- who has satisfactorily completed a formal training in bamboo scaffolding works equivalent to any of those mentioned for a competent person or has satisfactorily passed the intermediate trade test for bamboo scaffolder of the CICTA and possesses at least 1 year of experience in bamboo scaffolding works (inclusive of experience under the formal training period); or
- who are registered skilled, semi-skilled, skilled (provisional) or semi-skilled (provisional) workers under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 583) for the trade of bamboo scaffolders.
1. Give due consideration to all safety factors in the design of bamboo scaffolds.
2. Include safety requirements in the contract for scaffolding work.
3. Assess site conditions, formulate safety plans and devise safe working procedures.
4. Maintain good coordination of work and close communication with all parties concerned.
5. Prepare a contingency plan for adverse weather conditions.
6. Ensure that work is carried out by "competent persons" and "trained workmen."
7. Provide personal protective equipment.
9. Train all personnel involved in the work.

The latest Guidelines on Planking Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds issued by the Hong Kong Construction Industry Council should be observed in fulfilling the safety responsibilities of laying planks as working platforms on bamboo scaffolds so as to ensure safety at work on bamboo scaffolds.

The following essential points should be taken into account in making the planking arrangement:

1. Erecting bamboo scaffolds should conform to one of the following:
   - (i) Laying working platforms on every lift of a bamboo scaffold;
   - (ii) Erecting a suitable working platform at every working location on a lift where the entire scaffold is designed as a closed space bamboo scaffold (for definition and drawings of closely spaced bamboo scaffold, please refer to the Guidelines on Planning Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds).

2. For works with contract commencement date before 1 March 2018 and not meeting the requirements in item (i) above, at least three consecutive layers of working platforms should be laid on bamboo scaffolds in compliance with the Guidelines on Planking Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds issued in May 2018.

3. Assess site conditions, formulate safety plans and devise safe working procedures.
4. Ensure that work is carried out by "competent persons" and "trained workmen."
5. Provide personal protective equipment.

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