



Work Safety Alert Collapse of Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** February 2024
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential building under construction
3. **Summary :**

A worker, while working on the external wall of a residential building under construction, plunged onto the ground together with a bamboo scaffold erected outside the 19/F of the building. The collapsing scaffold fell to four other workers on the ground, leading to two workers dead and three injured (including the one working on the scaffold) as a result.

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

To prevent workers/ employees from being endangered by scaffolds, contractors/ proprietors should provide and maintain a safe system of work which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- ensuring that scaffolds greater than 15m in height are designed and approved by a professional engineer;
- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with all work on and near the scaffolds, taking into account the nature of work, the work environment and the impacts on scaffolds arising from other construction activities;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, the requirements of relevant safety legislation, relevant codes of practice and guidelines to minimise the risks of workers;



- taking effective steps to ensure that all supports of the scaffolds are of adequate strength to hold vertical and lateral loads imposed on the scaffolding;
- ensuring that a scaffold with a height of greater than 7m:
 - ties securely to the building/ structure façade (with putlogs) at a separation of not greater 4m vertically and 7m horizontally; and
 - is connected between the inner scaffold and the building facade through struts to restrict any inward movement of the scaffold;
- ensuring that scaffolds are only altered under the immediate supervision of a competent person and by trained workmen possessing adequate experience of such work;
- prohibiting unauthorised alteration/ tampering of scaffolds;
- properly maintaining the scaffolds, including formulating and implementing an effective checking system for timely detection and prompt rectification of any defects of the scaffolds to ensure their structural integrity and stability;
- providing all workers concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing 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



- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)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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