



Work Safety Alert Fall from Height while Dismantling a Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2024
2. **Place of Accident :** A school building under refurbishment
3. **Summary :**

While dismantling a bamboo scaffold on the external wall of a school building, a scaffolder was suspected to have fallen from the catch fan of the scaffold to the ground for a vertical distance of about 15m. He was certified dead in hospital later on the same day.

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

To prevent any workers from falling from height while carrying out any dismantling (as well as erection or alteration) of bamboo scaffolds, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- ensuring that every independent lifeline is suitably positioned and extended to the place of work, enabling the use of which by trained workmen to reach any place he/ she is expected to work;
- providing every workman concerned with a suitable safety harness and anchorage system meeting the specifications of international or national standards;
- ensuring that the continuous plus proper attachment of the harness to the anchorage system during the work;
- ensuring that scaffolds are only dismantled (as well as erected or altered) by trained workmen possessing adequate experience of such work under the immediate supervision of a competent person;
- ensuring the competent person can focus on monitoring the safety of



trained workmen under his supervision, and should refrain from simultaneously engaging in the erection, addition, alteration or dismantling work of bamboo scaffold.

- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work for the workmen;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work for the bamboo scaffold dismantling work with due regard to work at height safety;
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference¹ :

- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System](#)
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)

¹ Click to view documents



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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.