



Work Safety Alert **Fall from Unprotected Void of Scaffolding**

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2024
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential care home for the elderly
3. **Summary :**

When connecting refrigerant copper pipes to the compressor unit of a split-type air-conditioner, a worker fell about 3m to the ground through a void from a bamboo scaffold erected on the external wall of a building. He sustained serious head injuries and passed away on the next day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers from falling from height while carrying out any work on a bamboo scaffold, the contractors/ employers should provide and maintain suitable precautionary measures which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work for workers, and ensuring their proper use by the workers;
- ensuring that every working platform of the bamboo scaffold is protected by (i) not less than two horizontal bamboo members of the scaffold spaced at intervals between 750mm to 900mm (or provided with suitable guard-rails); and (ii) toe-boards or other similar barriers erected on the platform with the height of not less than 200mm;
- ensuring that every working platform is closely boarded or planked; and every board or plank rests securely and evenly on its supports;
- ensuring that all nearby dangerous edges, openings or void spaces through which any person is liable to fall a distance of 2m or more are



properly fenced off or covered;

- ensuring that the scaffold is inspected and certified safe by a competent person before being first use and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days;
- where the provision of suitable working platforms or protection of dangerous edges, openings or void spaces are not reasonably practicable, setting up a fall arresting system (or alike system) by providing every worker concerned with a suitable safety harness and ensuring the continuous plus proper attachment of the harness to a suitable anchorage system during the work;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work for the air-conditioners' 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. 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
- [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



職業安全及健康部
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DISCLAIMER

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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.

¹ [Click to view document](#)