



## Work Safety Alert Fall from Height while Dismantling Truss-out Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** November 2024
2. **Place of Accident :** A flat in an industrial building
3. **Summary :**

While dismantling a truss-out bamboo scaffold and its metal brackets on the external wall of an industrial building, a scaffolder fell about 33 m from the 11/F to the 1/F together with a detached metal bracket, to which the scaffolder's safety harness was attached. 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:

- providing every workman concerned with a suitable full-body safety harness and anchorage system meeting the specifications of international or national standards;
- ensuring that every independent lifeline is suitably positioned and extended to the place of work;
- ensuring that the continuous plus proper attachment of the harness to the anchorage system during the work;
- ensuring that the metal brackets for supporting scaffolds should be securely installed onto the structural elements of a building, which shall be of good construction, intact and free from obvious cracks, and can safely support the loading from the scaffolds, including the weights of



workers and materials, wind loads and working loads;

- ensuring that non-structural elements such as exterior decoration or plastering of buildings shall not be used for securing anchor bolts or installing metal brackets;
- ensuring that anchor bolts for installing metal brackets are of high quality with their installation details and procedures met the manufacturers' requirements;
- ensuring that scaffolds are dismantled (as well as erected or altered) only 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;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the bamboo scaffold dismantling work with due regard to work at height safety; and
- providing workmen involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures.

## 5. Reference<sup>1</sup> :

- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System](#)
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety](#)
- [Guide on Construction and Work Safety of Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds](#)
- [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](#)

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**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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<sup>1</sup> Click to view documents