



Work Safety Alert Fall from a Metal Ladder

1. **Date of Accident :** July 2024
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential unit
3. **Summary :**

While inspecting lighting facilities inside the toilet of a residential unit, a worker was suspected of having fallen from a metal ladder. He sustained serious head injury and passed away two days later.

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

To prevent workers from falling, the proprietors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work, which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of the work and the working environment, particularly those places where workers are liable to fall;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation and relevant guidelines;
- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- if work-above-ground cannot be avoided, providing and ensuring the use of suitable working platforms or other safe means of support by workers who are required to work-above-ground;
- for light-duty work to be carried out in work environment where a



suitable working platform or other safe means of support cannot be erected (for example, restrictive work space), providing and ensuring the use of suitable step platforms or hop-up platforms in conformity with relevant statutory safety requirements and international or national standards;

- following the manufacturer’s manuals to fully extend and lock the stabilisers or outriggers of the platforms (if any) to ensure their stability;
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring 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 Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety¹](#)

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.

¹ Click to view document