



Work Safety Alert Fall from a Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** An industrial building in Sha Tin
3. **Summary :**

A scaffolding worker fell to his death from about the 3/F level of a bamboo scaffold under erection at the external wall of an industrial building to the ground.

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

To prevent any person from falling from height, contractors/employers responsible for the use and erection/dismantling/alteration of a bamboo scaffold should:

- conduct risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures for the scaffolding work;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from the scaffold;
- ensure the use of the suitable working platforms for the work where practicable;
- where the use of working platforms is impracticable, ensure that every worker working on or erecting/dismantling/altering the scaffold is wearing a suitable safety harness that is attached to a suitable anchorage such as a fixed anchor, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system;
- ensure that the scaffold is erected/dismantled/alterated only by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person; and



- implement effective monitoring system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems¹](#)
- [Safety Guide for Bamboo Scaffolding Work¹](#)

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.

¹ Click to view the document