



Work Safety Alert Fall from a Bamboo Scaffold

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

A plasterer fell to his death from about 18/F level down to 4/F while he was working on a bamboo scaffold erected at the external wall of the building.

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

To prevent any person undertaking work-at-height on scaffolds from falling, contractors/employers should ensure that:

- task specific risk assessments are conducted and appropriate safe working procedures are formulated for the work;
- suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from every place of work are provided and properly maintained;
- suitable working platforms are provided and properly maintained;
- the working platforms are provided with suitable guard-rails and toe-boards;
- the scaffolds are inspected and certified safe by a competent person;
- where use of working platforms is impracticable, workers are wearing suitable safety harnesses connected to proper anchorages; and
- an effective monitoring and supervision system is developed and implemented.



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](#)

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