



Work Safety Alert
Fall from Height while Erecting/Dismantling
a Truss-out Bamboo Scaffold

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** A residential building in Aberdeen
3. **Summary :**

A scaffolder fell to his death from 31/F onto a planter level below the ground floor of the building while he was preparing to erect a truss-out bamboo scaffold at the external wall of the building.

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 truss-out bamboo scaffold should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures for the work;
- ensure that every worker working on or erecting/dismantling/altering the scaffold (including doing preparation work at height) 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;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from the scaffold;
- ensure that the scaffold is erected/dismantled/alterd 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](#)
- [A Casebook of Occupational Fatalities related to Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolding Works¹](#)
- [Safety Measures for Use of Truss-out Bamboo Scaffold¹](#)
- [「狗臂架」式棚架安全須知¹](#) (Chinese version only)

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