



Work Safety Alert Fall onto Projecting Steel Starter Bars

1. **Date of Accident :** September 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** A construction site in Tsing Yi
3. **Summary :**

While climbing up a metal scaffold for erecting wooden formwork, a formworker fell over 2 metres onto some projecting steel starter bars and was impaled to his death.

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

To avoid the hazards of falling from height and impalement by projecting steel starter bars on construction sites, contractors/employers undertaking work-at-height should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures for the work;
- provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe access to and egress from every place of work;
- ensure the use of suitable scaffolds and working platforms for the work as far as practicable;
- ensure that the working platforms are provided with suitable guard-rails and toe-boards;
- where the use of the working platforms is impracticable, ensure that the use of suitable fall protection devices by workers;
- safeguard all projecting ends of the steel starter bars with suitable protection caps or wooden troughs; and



- implement effective monitoring and supervision 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](#)
- [Guidance Notes of Classification of Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage System¹](#)

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