



TWO BAMBOO SCAFFOLDING RELATED INCIDENTS RESULTING IN TWO WORKERS BEING INJURED

On 29 January 2024, a worker fell from height at a workplace in Sai Wan Ho while dismantling a bamboo scaffold, he lost consciousness and was sent to the hospital for treatment; on the same day in a workplace at Eastern Hospital Road, a worker fell from height during an erecting work for bamboo scaffold and was sent to the hospital for treatment. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

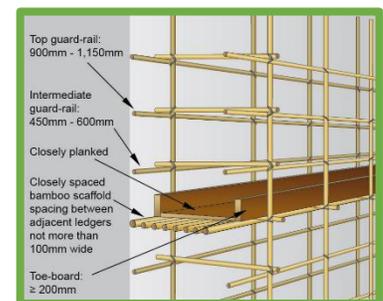
1. Failure to erect suitable working platform at the working location on every lift of bamboo scaffold.
2. Failure to provide relevant workers an effective fall arresting system (e.g. secure anchorage point and independent lifeline) during bamboo scaffolding works.
3. PPE is not properly used and safety harness is not connected to the anchorage point.
4. Failure to supervise the erecting, altering or dismantling works for bamboo scaffolds by a competent person.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.



Worker wears a full body safety harness with its lanyard attached to a secure anchorage (e.g. an eye bolt) or an independent lifeline with a fall arrester

Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct risk assessments to identify the risks of falling from height and develop safe working procedures.
2. When erecting, altering, dismantling scaffolds, a worker must wear a full body safety harness with its lanyard attached to a secure anchorage (e.g. an eye bolt) or an independent lifeline with a fall arrester.
3. Bamboo scaffolds shall be erected, altered or dismantled by trained workmen under the immediate supervision of a competent person.
4. A suitable working platform should be erected at all working locations on every lift.
5. Provide all workers concerned with the necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the relevant safe work procedures.
6. Establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.



A suitable working platform should be erected at all working locations on every lift



SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should take into accounts the nature of work and the work environment prior to the commencement of works; and adopt appropriate design of scaffolds and construction methods.
- During the construction stage, the work team should establish and implement an effective management system to ensure that the scaffolds, personal protective equipment and fall arresting devices (e.g. independent lifeline) are inspected before work to ensure they are in good working order.
- The work team could constantly identify the changes in the process or the environment through dynamic risk assessment and apply control measures to eliminate the hazard.
- Workers should follow the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any risks of falling from height, report it to their supervisors immediately.

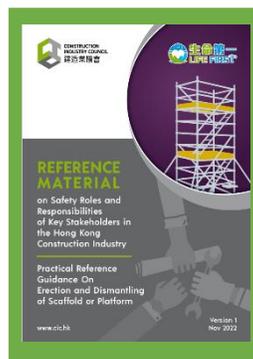
Reference information for sharing



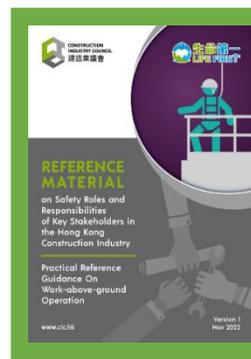
Guidelines on Planning Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds



Guidelines on Work-above-ground Safety



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Erection and Dismantling of Scaffold or Platform)



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Work-above-ground Operation)



Work-At-Height Safety Handbook



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