



A WORKER FELL TO HIS DEATH FROM A BUILDING IN TSUEN WAN

On 20 July 2024, a worker fell from height while he was erecting a bamboo scaffold at the external wall of a building in Tsuen Wan. He was certified dead at the scene. 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. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not properly used and safety harness is not connected to the anchorage point.
2. Failure to provide relevant workers an effective fall arresting system (e.g. secure anchorage point and independent lifeline) during bamboo scaffolding works.
3. Allow untrained workers to carry out scaffolding works.
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.



Please click the above image to watch the safety video "What You Need to Know About Bamboo Scaffolding Safety" (Chinese Version Only)

Critical Control Measures

1. Refer to the Guidelines on Safety Enhancement of and Notification Arrangement for Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds for the erection of truss-out bamboo scaffolds in minor alteration and repair works, the property management company should notify the Labour Department at least 5 working days before the commencement of truss-out bamboo scaffolds erection works; or the contractor directly notify the Labour Department at least 5 working days before the commencement of such works (only applicable to buildings without a property management company).
2. Bamboo scaffolds shall be erected, altered and dismantled by trained workmen under the immediate supervision of a competent person.
3. A trained workman in respect of truss-out bamboo scaffolding, refers to a person who holds a valid certificate of "Advanced Level Truss-out Scaffolder Safety Training" or "Intermediate Level Truss-out Scaffolder Safety Training" issued by the CIC.
4. When erecting, altering and 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.
5. Each metal bracket supporting the scaffold must be fixed with 3 or more anchor bolts and the anchor bolts should have a tensile capacity greater than 7kN; the horizontal spacing between the metal brackets should not be greater than 1.3m.
6. Establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

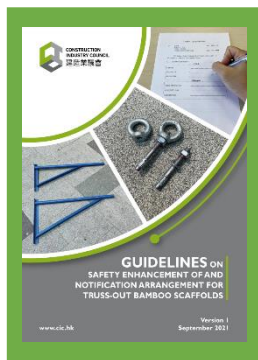


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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, truss-out bamboo scaffolds should be designed by a professional engineer to cater for the vertical self-weight of the scaffold, its imposed load and the extra loads resulting from wind forces.
- During the construction stage, the work team should establish and implement an effective management system, to ensure that truss-out bamboo scaffolds erection works are only carried out by competent person and trained workmen.
- The work team should 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.
- 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 Safety Enhancement of and Notification Arrangement for Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds



Standard and Guide on Scaffolding Safety (Chinese Version Only)



Construction Industry Council Webpage - Truss-out Scaffold Safety Training



Hong Kong Institute of Construction Webpage - Certificate in Safety Enhancement to Erection & Dismantling of "Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds"



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