



A WORKER FELL TO HIS DEATH FROM A BUILDING IN KWAI CHUNG

On 20 September 2024, a worker fell from a bamboo scaffold while installing air conditioner at the external wall of a building in Kwai Chung. The worker was certified dead later in hospital. 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 locations of bamboo scaffold.
2. Failure to provide safe access to and egress from a working platform.
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not properly used and safety harness is not connected to the anchorage point.
4. 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 "Working at Height - Working on a Scaffold at the External Wall"

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. The bamboo scaffold shall be designed as a closely spaced bamboo scaffold, and a suitable working platform shall be erected at all working locations on every lift.
3. Ensure that every working platform is closely boarded or planked; and every board or plank rests securely on its supports.
4. Ensure that all nearby dangerous edges, openings or void spaces, through which any person is liable to fall a distance of 2 metres or more, are properly fenced off or covered.
5. Provide suitable stairs or ladders as access to and egress from working platforms on each lift of bamboo scaffolds.
6. The bamboo scaffold shall be inspected by a competent person before being taken into use for the first time and at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days; and the competent person must have signed and issued Form 5 prescribed under the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations, to certify that the scaffold is in safe working order.
7. For working environment where it is impracticable to provide suitable working platforms, provide relevant workers with suitable full body safety harnesses and suitable anchor points, independent lifelines or fall arresting systems for continuous attachment of the safety harnesses.
8. 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

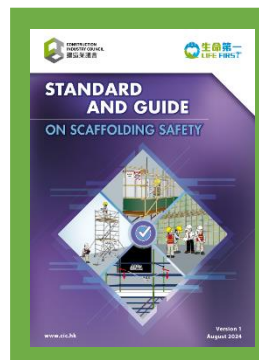
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accidents be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should select suitable working platforms for working at height with due consideration to the working environment, nature of work and required load weight prior to the commencement of works.
- During the construction stage, the work team should establish and implement an effective management system, to ensure that bamboo scaffolds shall be erected, altered and dismantled by trained workmen under the immediate supervision of a competent person.
- 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, if any risks of falling from height is identified, report it to their supervisors immediately.

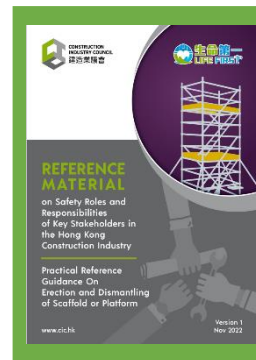
Reference information for sharing



Guidelines on Planking Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds



Standard and Guide on Scaffolding 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)



Work-At-Height Safety Handbook



Please Click the Images



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