



FATAL FALL OF A WORKER WHILE DISMANTLING A BAMBOO SCAFFOLD IN HO MAN TIN

On 13 October 2024, a worker fell from height to the ground while dismantling a bamboo scaffold at the external wall of a building in Ho Man Tin. 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 provide relevant workers an effective fall arresting system (e.g. secure anchorage point and independent lifeline) during bamboo scaffolding works.
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not properly used and safety harness is not connected to the anchorage point.
3. Failure to supervise the erecting, altering or dismantling works for bamboo scaffolds by a competent person.
4. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.



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. A competent person should focus on monitoring the safe condition of the bamboo scaffold and the safety of trained workmen, and should not engage in the scaffolding dismantling work at the same time.
3. When dismantling bamboo 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.
4. All anchorages or fall arresters should be designed to withstand a minimum pull-out force of 6 kN.
5. The bamboo scaffold to be dismantled should be checked for its strength and stability. The dismantling procedures should be followed in an orderly manner and properly planned, and generally be done from the top down in horizontal sections.
6. No components for maintaining the stability of the remaining structure should be removed. Unless necessary precautions have been taken, all the ties and bracings should remain secured in the original position.
7. Safe access to and egress from place of work should be provided for the scaffolders. One way of providing a safe access to and egress from a bamboo scaffold is to provide a safe gangway between the existing building and the scaffold.
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

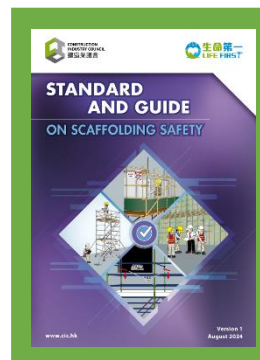
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accidents be avoided?

- In the planning stage, engineers should properly formulate the dismantling sequence of bamboo scaffolds and its associated critical members with due consideration to the working environment and scaffolders' safety prior to the commencement of dismantling works.
- During the construction stage, construction team should strengthen the coordination with the contractor engaging in bamboo scaffolding dismantling work, to ensure that the work is proceeded according to the plan and under effective supervision.
- The work team should ensure that the bamboo 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



Disclaimer

This message is not intended to constitute any professional advice on these or any other subjects. The CIC (including its members and employees) will not accept responsibility for any consequences resulting from the use of or failure to use this message. For enquiries, please contact 2100 9000.