



Industrial accident

A fatal accident happened on **11 December 2019**, in which a female worker fell to her death from a bamboo scaffold at upper level of the external wall of a building under construction at Tseung Kwan O.

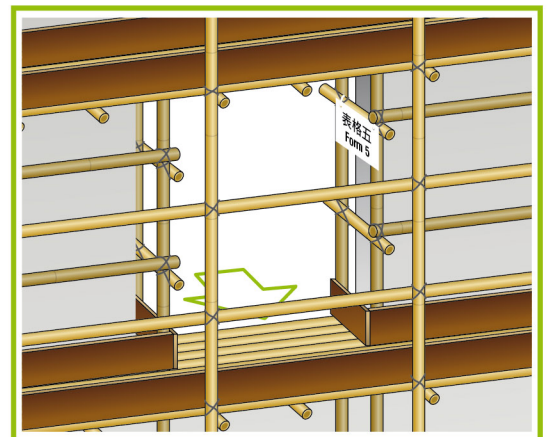
The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be much appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much!

Relevant hyperlink: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gja/general/201912/11/P2019121100865.htm?fontSize=1>
Source: Information Services Department

Recommendations

► As a Contractor / Subcontractor / Employer:

1. Minimize the chance of working at height during the consideration of construction method in the project planning stages;
2. Appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work especially working at height, and taking into account the nature of work and the working environment;
3. Provide and maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
4. Ensure that every working platform is closely planked; and every plank rests securely and evenly on its supports;
5. Ensure that all nearby dangerous edges, openings or void spaces are properly fenced off or covered; and
6. Where protection of dangerous edges, openings or void spaces are not reasonably practicable, set up a fall arresting system and provide necessary equipment to every worker concerned.



Safe means of access and egress.

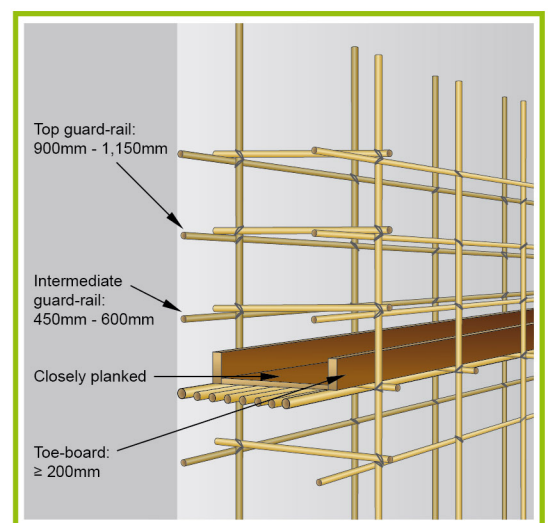
► As a foremen and frontline worker:

1. Ensure the alteration/dismantling works are carried out in strict accordance with the method statement, safety procedures and safety measures;
2. Implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed by workers;
3. Worker should stop work and report to supervisor immediately when he /she encounter unsafe environment or there is inadequate personal protection equipment provided to him/her; and
4. Do not make unauthorized alteration to the scaffolds.

► As a Safety Practitioner:

1. Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment on working at height including scaffolding works and establish safe working procedures; and
2. Develop and implement an effective, proactive inspection programme to ensure that safety measures are strictly followed, and to report any non-compliances.

The above only listed out key points of safety, for more information please make reference to the 《Code of Practice For Bamboo Scaffolding Safety》, the 《Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems》 issued by the Labour Department and 《Guidelines on Planking Arrangement for Providing Working Platforms on Bamboo Scaffolds》 issued by the Labour Department.



Safe working platform.

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.