



Industrial Accident (December 2021)

Two accidents happened on 25 November 2021 and 2 December 2021 on residential buildings in Yuen Long and Hung Hom respectively, in which workers were suspected to have fallen from height while undertaking truss-out scaffold operation at the external wall of the building. They were admitted to hospital and certified dead later in the hospital.

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!

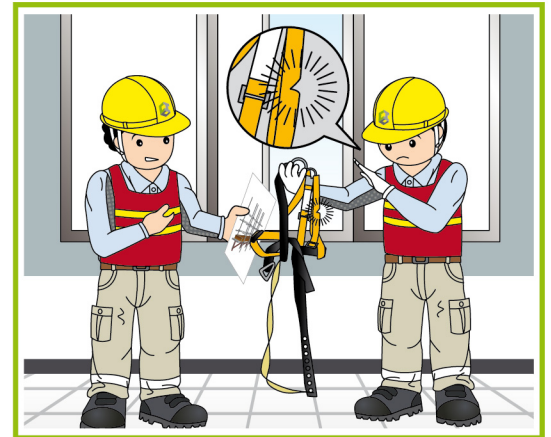
Relevant link: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/25/P2021112500916.htm>
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/02/P2021120200835.htm>

Source: Information Services Department

Recommendations

► As a Contractor / Subcontractor / Employer:

1. Appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work especially working at height after taking into account the nature of work and the working environment;
2. Ensure truss-out bamboo scaffolds should be designed by a professional engineer with consideration on the structural condition and load-bearing capacity of the concrete structure where the truss-out scaffolds will be erected, self-weight of the scaffolds, imposed loads as well as wind load;
3. Provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
4. Ensure that scaffolds are erected / dismantled / altered by trained workmen with adequate experience under the immediate supervision of a competent person;
5. Provide workers with a suitable safety harness that is attached continuously to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall arresting system, and ensure proper use of them;
6. Provide workers with adequate information, instructions and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
7. Property management company, the person commission to the project or the contractor should use standard form to notify Labour Department if they know that the place is going to erect a truss-out bamboo scaffold.



Workers should stop work and report to supervisor immediately when encountering unsafe environment or inadequate personal protection equipment.

► As a Frontline Supervisor / Worker:

1. Ensure the 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 working and report to supervisor immediately when he / she encounters unsafe environment or there is inadequate personal protection equipment provided to him / her; and
4. Do not make unauthorised 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.



Use standard form to notify Labour Department if the place is going to erect a truss-out bamboo scaffold.

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, Work at Height Safety Handbook** and **Guidelines on Safety Enhancement of and Notification Arrangement for Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds** issued by the CIC.

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.