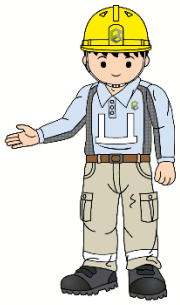
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

CIC Safety Message

No. 15/26



FATAL FALL OF A WORKER WHILE ERECTING A TRUSS-OUT SCAFFOLD IN SHAM SHUI PO

On 11 September 2026, a worker fell from height while erecting a truss-out scaffold on the external wall of a building in Sham Shui Po. He 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

Common Accidents

1. Failure to provide relevant workers with an effective fall arresting system (e.g. secure anchorage point and independent lifeline) during scaffolding work.
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not properly used and safety harness is not connected to the anchorage point.
3. Failure to install the metal brackets on the solid structural elements of a building.
4. Failure to supervise the erecting, altering or dismantling works for scaffolds by a competent person.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures.

Please click the above image to watch the safety video "Working at Height - Truss-out Scaffold"

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. **Engage Registered "S21 Truss-out Scaffolding" Specialist Trade Contractors of under the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme** to undertake the truss-out bamboo scaffolding works is recommended.
3. The erecting, altering and dismantling of scaffolds shall be **done by trained workmen under the immediate supervision of a competent person**.
4. A trained workman in respect of truss-out bamboo scaffolding works, 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.
5. 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.
6. Metal brackets shall be installed on the structural elements of buildings, such as **solid external concrete (strength should be not less than 25N/mm^2) walls**. The truss-out bamboo scaffold should not be erected on brick walls or plastering surface.
7. Adopt the **metal brackets made of grade S275 steel**.
8. Each metal bracket must be **fixed with 3 or more anchor bolts** to ensure its stability. The anchor bolts should have a **tensile capacity greater than 7kN**.
9. **Encourage the construction industry to enroll in the "Truss-out Scaffolding (TOS) Metal Brackets Exchange Programme"** to elevate safety standard of the industry. Each Registered "S21 Truss-out Scaffolding" Specialist Trade Contractor can apply for the **exchange of a maximum of 500 metal brackets made of grade S275 steel** that meet the relevant safety requirements.
10. **Provide workers with the necessary safety information, instructions and training**, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures and safety measures.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

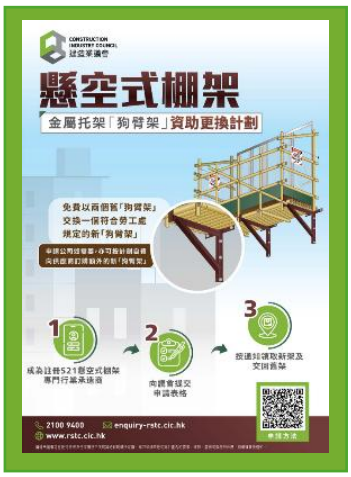
SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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

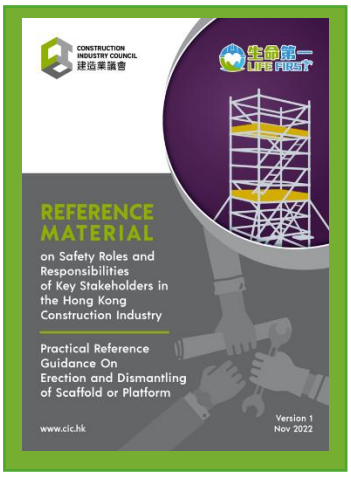
- In the design stage, designers and engineers should take into accounts the work environment prior to the commencement of works; and select suitable working platforms and anchorage system.
- During the construction stage, the work team should establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system to ensure that the working platforms, PPE and anchorages (e.g. independent lifeline) are inspected before work, ensuring that they are in good working order.
- The work team could constantly identify the changes in the process or the environment through dynamic risk assessment and apply control measures to eliminate the hazard.
- Workers should follow the developed safe working procedures, if any risk of falling from height is identified, report it to their supervisors immediately.

Reference Information

Standard and Guide on Scaffolding Safety (Version 2 - August 2026) (Chinese Version Only)



Details of Truss Out Scaffolding (TOS) Metal Brackets Exchange Programme (Chinese Version Only)



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

生命第一 LIFE FIRST

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.