



FATAL FALL OF A WORKER WHILE DISMANTLING A BAMBOO SCAFFOLD IN KOWLOON CITY

On 5 November 2024, a worker fell from height while dismantling a bamboo scaffold at the external wall of a building in Kowloon City. 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 very much.

Common Accidents

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not properly used and safety harness is not connected to the anchorage point.
2. Failure to install metal brackets of truss-out bamboo scaffolds in the solid structural elements of buildings.
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. By referring to the Guidelines on Safety Enhancement of and Notification Arrangement for Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds for the erection of truss-out bamboo scaffolds in minor alteration and repair works, the property management company should notify the Labour Department at least 5 working days before the commencement of truss-out bamboo scaffolds erection works; or the contractor directly notify the Labour Department at least 5 working days before the commencement of such works (only applicable to buildings without a property management company).
2. Bamboo scaffolds shall be erected, altered and dismantled by trained workmen under the immediate supervision of a competent person.
3. When erecting, altering and 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 (e.g. an eye bolt) or fall arresters should be designed to withstand a minimum pull-out force of 6 kN.
5. Metal brackets for truss-out bamboo scaffolds shall be installed on the structural elements of buildings, such as solid external concrete walls. The structural elements shall be of good construction, intact and free from obvious cracks, and can safely support the loadings from the bamboo scaffolds.
6. Each metal bracket supporting the bamboo scaffold must be fixed with 3 or more anchor bolts and the anchor bolts should have a tensile capacity greater than 7kN.
7. Establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

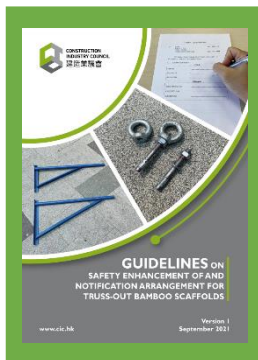


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident 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, the work team should establish and implement an effective management system, to ensure that bamboo scaffolds erection, alteration and dismantling works are only carried out by a competent person and trained workmen.
- 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, in case any risks of falling from height is identified, report it to their supervisors immediately.

Reference information for sharing



Guidelines on Safety Enhancement of and Notification Arrangement for Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds



Standard and Guide on Scaffolding Safety (Chinese Version Only)



Construction Industry Council Webpage - Truss-out Scaffolder Safety Training



Hong Kong Institute of Construction Webpage - Certificate in Safety Enhancement for Erection and Dismantling "Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds" (Chinese Version Only)

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