



A WORKER FALLS TO DEATH WHILE WORKING ON A BAMBOO SCAFFOLD IN SAU MAU PING

On November 2 2025, a worker fell from height to the ground while working on a bamboo scaffold at a construction site in Sau Mau Ping. The worker was certified dead. 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 necessary safety information, instructions, training and supervision to the workers concerned.
2. Failure to provide relevant workers with an effective anchorage system (e.g. secure anchorage point or an independent lifeline) during bamboo scaffolding works.
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not properly used, and safety harness with its lanyard is not attached to a secure anchorage.
4. Failure to supervise the erecting, altering or dismantling works for bamboo scaffolds by a competent person.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.



Life First - Walk the Talk "Bamboo Scaffolding Safety and Code of Practice" was held on 13 February 2025. Please click the above image to watch replay of the Webinar at CIC website (Chinese Version only)

Critical Control Measures

1. **If the works must be carried out on non-working days, sufficient supervision must be ensured. An effective monitoring and management system should be established and implemented to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.**
2. 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.
3. Employer must **ensure the proper use of the safety harnesses by the persons to whom they were provided. The safety harnesses should be attached continuously to a suitable and secure anchorage.**
4. All anchorages or fall arresters should be designed to **withstand a minimum pull-out force of 6 kN.**
5. 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.
6. The erection, extension, alteration and dismantling of bamboo scaffolds shall be done by **trained workmen under the immediate supervision of a competent person.**
7. Strictly follow the requirements as stipulated in the "**Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety**", to install sufficient critical members, including putlogs/ties, and they should be complied with relevant standards.
8. The work platforms on the bamboo scaffolds should be provided with **suitable and safe access and egress**, closely boarded platforms, suitable guard-rails and toe-boards.
9. Provide workers with the **necessary safety information**, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe working procedures and safety measures.



For information on bamboo scaffolding safety, please click the image to refer the Labour Department's "Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety"



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

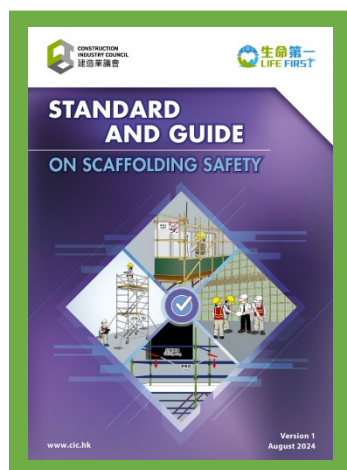
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accidents be avoided?

- 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, personal protective equipment 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 assessments and apply control measures to eliminate the hazards.
- 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



Guidelines on Planning 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



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