

Working at height – important points

1. Providing safe access to and egress from a workplace, for instance, safe passage, staircase and ladder.
2. Providing a safe workplace for every worker, for instance, a proper working platform. If it is not practicable, fall arresting system is needed.
3. Appointing competent person with substantial training and experience to conduct regular inspection of scaffolding / working platform, so as to ensure their stability and safety for sustaining the loading of workers and materials.

Definition

Competent person: a person with substantial training and practical experience appointed by the contractor to perform the duty.

Substantial training: a formal training in scaffolding works such as the 3-year apprenticeship scheme of Vocational Training Council or 1-year full-time basic craft course on scaffolding works of the Hong Kong Institute of Construction.

Competent person with practical experience: working experience of 10 years or more in scaffolding works.

4. Conducting regular inspection of scaffolding, working platform and anchorage installations with record of findings. Formulating procedures for dealing with issues identified in inspections.
5. Properly designing all special scaffolding / temporary working platform for endorsement by professional engineers. Indicating the safe working load on the scaffolding / temporary working platform.
6. Installing proper railing and toe-boards for the periphery of floor slabs, staircases, working platforms and accesses.
7. Providing all floor openings with railings and toe-boards, or covering the openings with boards.
8. Covering the lift shaft wall openings with full gate lockable gates to prevent fall of persons or materials.