

Safety & Health Circular No. 50 / 2014

Safety Management Measures for Erection of Falsework

Date: 24 November 2014

Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

In recent surprise inspections conducted by the Labour Department of two Housing Authority (HA) sites to check compliance of falsework design and installation with safety requirement, the following deficiencies were revealed and a total of 4 suspension notices were served to the main contractors of the sites:-

- (a) Tie bars (lacings) were missing at the top and bottom level of the steel propping.
- (b) The U-head jacks on top of the propping were extended more than 300 mm in height.
- (c) The alignment and verticality of the steel props were not in proper position.
- (d) The base plate for the steel props was not placed in a proper manner.
- (e) In the contractor's submission, the names and qualification of the Qualified Engineer (QE), Registered Structural Engineer (RSE), competent person and trained workmen had not been mentioned.
- (f) Procedures for installation and dismantling of falsework were not available.
- (g) Substantiation calculation for falsework design was unavailable.

The suspension notices were revoked after adoption of the following measures:-

- (a) Implementation of the Method Statement for Erection of Falsework
 - (i) Base support is not directly on soil and should meet the bearing requirements shown on the approved drawing;
 - (ii) Adjustable base jack, adjustable U head, scaffold, connector, cross bracing and lacing should follow the manufacturer's instructions with respect to size, extension, location and condition such as rust, fracture, straightness, etc;
 - (iii) Adjustable U head, bracing and lacing should be properly tightened;

- (iv) Scaffold layout observes requirements of spacing and orientation in the approved drawing;
- (v) The falsework should follow approved drawing requirements.
- (b) Submission of substantiations stated in items (e) to (g) of paragraph 1 above.

In order to prevent reoccurrence of the incidents on other HA sites, contractors are reminded to follow the above safety management measures when erecting falsework on sites.

Reference

1. Labour Department Guidance Notes: Safety at Work (Falsework – Prevention of Collapse)
2. Labour Department – Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety