



Work Safety Alert **Fall from a Stairway**

- 1. Date of Accident :** November 2015
- 2. Place of Accident :** A village house under renovation
- 3. Summary :**

A worker fell to his death from an internal stairway inside a 3-storeyed village house under renovation.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers from falling from height at stairways under construction or renovation and from sustaining head injury while at work, contractors/ employers should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the nature of work and the working environment to identify all associated potential hazards;
- devise and implement appropriate safety measures with due regard to the result of the risk assessments to minimize the risks exposed to the workers, such as falling hazard;
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- properly fence off any unprotected sides of stairways/ edges of stairway landings over which persons are liable to fall;;
- ensure that the height of a guard-rail above the surface of the unprotected side of stairway/ edge of stairway landing is not less than 900mm and not more than 1150mm for a top guard-rail, and not less than 450mm



and not more than 600mm for an intermediate guard-rail;

- remove any objects that may create tripping hazard from the work area or otherwise have them properly placed, and maintain floors in a non-slippery condition;
- provide each worker employed on the site with a suitable safety helmet with a chin strap and take all reasonable steps to ensure the wearing of the same by the worker;
- provide all workers involved with relevant safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are conversant with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Provisions for Safe Places of Work under Part VA of the Construction Sites \(Safety\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Prevention Against Fall from Height¹](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height¹](#)

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

¹ Click to view the document