



31 May 2011

All Approved Scaffold Contractors

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH CIRCULAR ON SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDING REQUIREMENTS

Recently, an accident occurred which involved a suspended scaffold (commonly known as a “gondola”). One of its parapet wall clamps was anchored to a brick roof fin, which gave way, causing the suspended scaffold to tilt and a worker to fall out of the work platform.

2. This safety circular is to remind all Approved Scaffold Contractors (Suspended Scaffold) of the following important requirements under “Terms and Conditions Pertaining to Approved Scaffold Contractor”, the Workplace Safety and Health Act and its subsidiary legislations:

- a. A suspended scaffold shall only be erected, installed, re-positioned, altered or dismantled by a team of qualified and competent suspended scaffold erector or riggers and in the immediate presence of a competent suspended scaffold supervisor. The scaffold supervisors, scaffold erectors and suspended scaffold riggers would need to have undergone a course of training approved by the Commissioner of Workplace Safety and Health. ASCs are also required to inform the Commissioner of any changes to the employment status of the suspended scaffold supervisors or suspended scaffold erectors or riggers employed in your organization.
- b. If the work platform of a suspended scaffold is supported by wire ropes, the outriggers or other overhead supports for the suspended scaffold shall be constructed in accordance with the design and drawings of a Professional Engineer (“PE”) of relevant discipline. Suspended scaffolds shall not be erected in locations not covered under the PE’s approved design and drawings.
- c. For roof hooks and parapet wall clamp anchorage system, unless the points of anchorage can withstand the stresses imposed, such system shall not be used on masonry and brick-wall, and shall be accompanied with sufficient tie-backs that are anchored onto the roof beams or internal columns of the building. Special considerations should be made as to

whether the supporting structure is structurally stable to support the suspended scaffold. Every tie-back wire rope shall at all times be in sufficient tension using a turn-buckle or other similar device.

- d. Adequate and suitable packing shall be securely clamped at the contact points between the parapet wall clamp anchorage system and the supporting structures to prevent spalling of concrete or cement mortar at the fulcrum points.
- e. Every suspended scaffold raised or lowered by climbers or winches shall be provided at each suspension point with a safety rope and an automatic safety device mounted on it. The safety rope with the automatic safety device shall be capable of supporting the platform in the event of a failure of the primary suspension rope, winch, climber or any part of the mechanism used for raising or lowering the suspended scaffold.
- f. A copy of the PE's approved design and drawings for the suspended scaffold and its anchorage system shall be made available on site.
- g. After the erection of a suspended scaffold, it shall be examined and tested by an Authorised Examiner where a certificate of test and examination shall be issued.
- h. The suspended scaffold supervisor shall ensure that the erection, installation or re-positioning of any suspended scaffold complies with the approved design and drawings.
- i. Every person working in a suspended scaffold shall wear a safety harness which shall be attached to an independent life-line at all times.

3. All ASCs are reminded to comply with the requirements. Failure to comply with the requirements may result in the suspension or revocation of the approval as an ASC or other enforcement actions. If you have any further queries or clarification, please contact us at MOM_OSHD@mom.gov.sg.



Kevin Teoh

for Commissioner for Workplace Safety and Health

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