



## **Work Safety Alert** **Fall from External Wall**

- 1. Date of Accident :** July 2014
- 2. Place of Accident :** A hospital
- 3. Summary :**

A window cleaning worker fell about 7m to his death while gaining access to his place of work with use of a ladder at the external wall of a hospital building.

### **4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :**

To prevent any person from falling from height, contractors/employers undertaking window cleaning work should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures with due regard to the working environment;
- avoid working at height as far as reasonably practicable and ensure safe work methods with appropriate tools be adopted by the workers;
- provide and properly maintain suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work;
- provide safe means of support and/or suitable working platforms for the cleaning work;
- where use of working platforms and safeguarding unprotected edges are impracticable, provide and ensure the use of suitable fall arresting system by workers;



- provide relevant safety information, instruction and training to the workers involved; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and supervision system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [Safety at Work – A Guide to Ladders and Elevated Working Platforms<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Classification and Use of Safety Belts and their Anchorage Systems<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Guide for Safety at Work in Cleansing of Buildings<sup>1</sup>](#)

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### 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.

<sup>1</sup> Click to view document