



WORKPLACE SAFETY NOTICE (WSN)

TOPIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID FALL FROM HEIGHT			Reference Number 2021/WSN/06
Approved by: Chief Inspector (Industry)	Issue date: 9 September 2021	Expiry date: None	Revision No: 1

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) would like to remind all principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work to be aware of the associated risks and take the necessary safety precautions and measures to avoid incidents of fall from height involving persons at work and have the necessary arrangements in place for the safe rescue from height of persons.

From 2017, a cumulative figure of 15 fatalities has been recorded as fatalities caused by falls from height which represents more than half of all workplace fatalities in Brunei within that time. Up till August 2021, 2 fatalities and 2 serious injuries were recorded resulting from falls from height in the construction industry for 2021 alone.



Fig. 1 SHENA Inspection photographs showing Work at Height without proper PPE and controls.

Fall from Heights incidents are largely attributed to a number of factors such as an absence of risk management for the activity, lack of suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and control measures in place, lack of competent supervision on site and a general lack of worker competency for those tasked with working at height (see Fig. 1). In view of the severity and frequency of these incidents, SHENA continues to take action concerning

Work at Height as a thematic area of focus and instituting such measures as necessary to minimise incidents in this area of concern.

All principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work are hereby reminded that relevant laws and regulations are in place which mandates the protection of workers and those who may be affected by their activities on site among which include Regulation 23 of the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations, 2014 whereby persons at work liable to a fall from height of 2 metres or more should be provided with:

- Secure cover or fence at all openings in floors of the workplace where practicable (see Fig. 2);



Fig.2 Unsecured openings are a hazard that can lead to serious injury or even death (L), an example of fenced floor opening (R, *photo credit: www.safetyrespect.com*).

- Secure foothold and handhold at the work area as reasonably practicable;
- Safety harness and suitable length of safety line with sufficient anchorage by means of a secured life line (see Fig. 3);

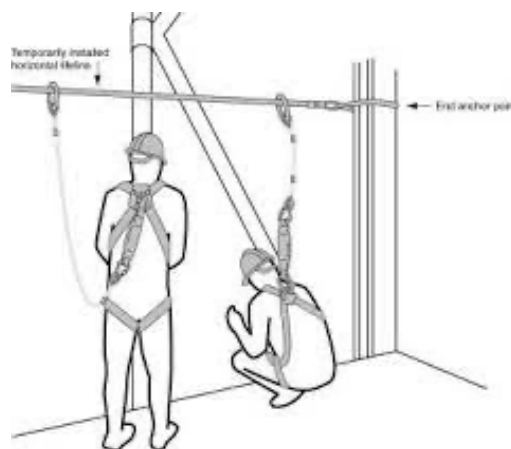


Fig. 3 Illustration of use of safety harness and secured lifeline (*photo credit: hse.gov.uk*).

- Secure fencing, guard rails and handhold/ handrail for any open side of a staircase, work platform or any opening in the floor or those used for lifting and hoisting activities (see Fig. 4);

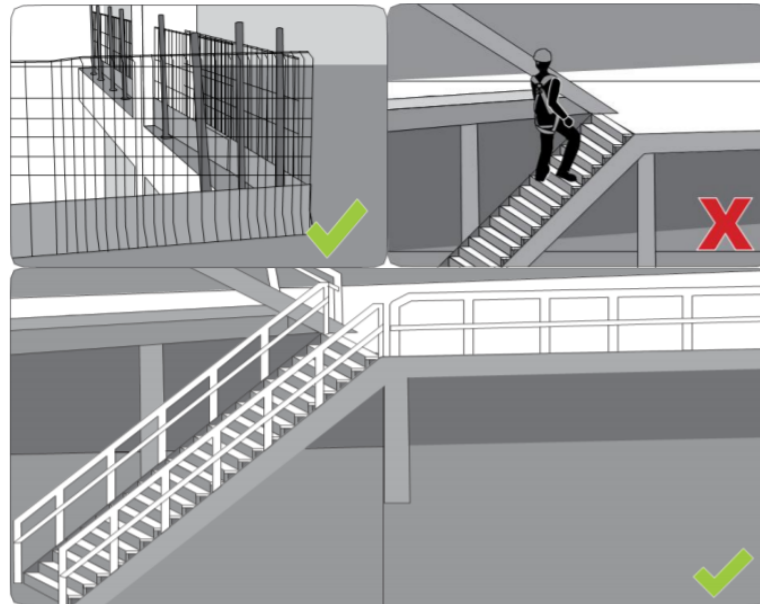


Fig. 4 Good and bad examples of secure fencing and guard rails for staircase and platform.

- Use of a single piece of wooden plank as a staging or working platform at height without appropriate securing is not recommended and must not be permitted onsite (see Fig. 5).

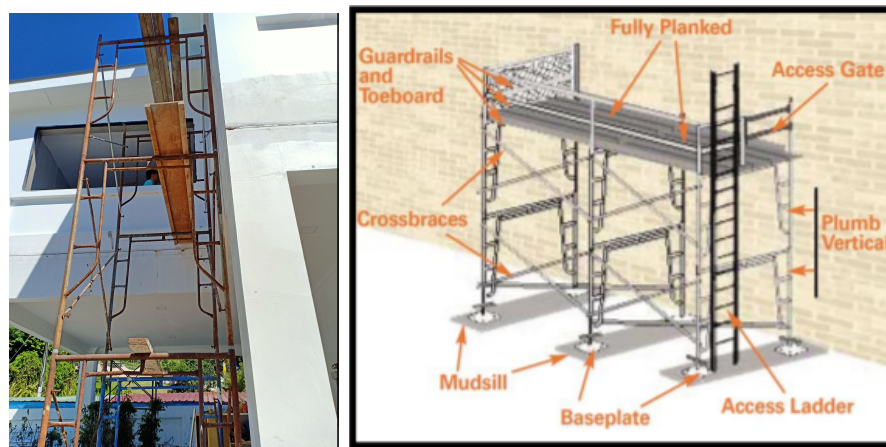


Fig. 5: Picture taken during SHENA Inspection where single plank used on scaffold (L), illustration of all the elements required for standard A-frame scaffold (R).

Regulation 23 of the Workplace Safety and Health (Construction) Regulations, 2014 also specifies controls for Work on Roof which includes:

- Sufficient and secured anchorage for attachment of safety harness;
- Protection of the person against sliding off the roof (see Fig. 6).



Fig. 6: Illustration of worker using crawling board as protection from sliding off roof (*picture credit: ilo.org*)

It is also the responsibility of the principal, occupier and employer of the person working at height to ensure that the worker uses the protection arrangements provided against sliding or fall from the roof.

Regulation 88 of the Workplace Safety and Health (Construction) Regulations, 2014 also specifies that it is the duty of the employer and/or principal to ensure that adequate safety and health training is provided to the person to familiarize himself with the hazards associated and precautions to be taken for the work activity. Training can be obtained from the Approved Training Providers (ATP) registered under SHENA.

All principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work are also asked to adhere to the the guidance provided in various Industrial Guidance Notes published by SHENA that address issues pertaining to falls from height namely:

- 2021/IGN/07 — Guidance to Work at Height and Working at Height Rescue Plan
- 2020/IGN/01 — Guidelines for the Safe use of Scaffolding
- 2021/WSN/03 — Guidance concerning installation of edge protection and perimeter guard railing at worksites in Brunei Darussalam

SHENA will continue to raise awareness on the matter through our Outreach Programmes and provide guidance to Industry while also paying due attention to work at height activities during our regulatory inspection and monitoring visits and will take all necessary action including legal action if necessary, such as the imposition of

remedial and stop work orders. Referral to the Public Prosecutor for prosecution will also be considered in extreme cases of repeat offending and of a serious nature.

All principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work are reminded to review their work practices to ensure compliance and adhere to the Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009 and its regulations at all times.

Should there be any questions concerning this Workplace Safety Notice please contact SHENA at **+673 238 2000** or email **info@shena.gov.bn** SHENA would like to thank all stakeholders for their cooperation in ensuring Brunei Darussalam is a safe place to work and live.

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