



SAFETY ALERT

An accident occurred recently at International City when a worker fell from a height of approximately 3 meters. The worker was taken to hospital in a very serious condition.

Investigation by EHS identified that the fall occurred as a result of the supervisor putting the worker to work on an unsafe scaffold. The supervisor also failed to carry out a risk assessment for the task.

There were no guard rails fitted to the scaffolding and the contractor had failed to provide safe access. The only access to the scaffolding was through a window and then for workers to climb the scaffold tubes.

All contractors must ensure that the following points are adhered to in order to prevent a recurrence of this type of accident.

The following must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *Only trained and competent scaffolders are allowed to erect, alter or dismantle scaffolding. This point must be reiterated to the workforce.*
- ➔ *All contractors must ensure that priority is given to providing a safe scaffold fitted with guardrails and toeboards.*
- ➔ *Harnesses are to be used as a last resort only and are no substitute for a safely erected scaffold.*
- ➔ *A scaffold tagging system must be used which should be easily understood by the workforce. Colours and symbols should be used to avoid any confusion amongst the workforce.*
- ➔ *Regular scaffold inspections must be undertaken and any scaffolding identified as unsafe must be marked with 'DO NOT USE' signage. All workers must understand that such scaffolds are not to be accessed.*
- ➔ *Senior managers must reinforce the role of the safety professional in their organisation. Supervisors must listen to and adhere to the advice of their own safety department.*
- ➔ *Managers, Supervisors and Foreman ARE responsible for ensuring those under their control are working safely.*

**For further information contact:
Environment, Health and Safety
Tel. No. (04) 8040318**

Safety Alert 014 230406