Falling from height may cause death or permanent disability.

All work places where there is a risk of falling e.g. floor openings, building edges, lift shafts, roofs etc. require suitable control measures to prevent workers from falling, or where this is not possible, measures to mitigate the consequences of a fall.

Preventing a fall can be achieved by double guard rails, floor coverings, safety harnesses coupled to lanyards that prevent workers from reaching unprotected edges (fall restraint), etc… The addition of a toe board prevents objects falling from the working platform onto workers below.

Mitigating the consequences of a fall can be achieved by safety nets, soft landing systems, safety harnesses coupled to energy absorbers to prevent workers hitting objects or the ground below (fall arrest), etc…

All scaffolding and other working platforms should be erected and checked by competent workers before first use and on a regular basis to ensure they remain safe. Records of these checks should be made.
When using mobile scaffolds or platforms, always lock the wheels to prevent inadvertent movement - edge protection should be to the same standard as other scaffolds.

Safe means of access must be provided to the scaffold at all levels. Ladders used for access should be securely tied on both styles to prevent them from slipping. The ladders should extend at least 1 meter above the landing point to provide a secure handhold.

CAUTION: In addition to the initial safety inspections scaffolds should also be inspected after any alteration, interruption in use, exposure to adverse weather, seismic conditions or any other occurrence likely to have affected their strength or stability to ensure they remain safe to use.

Medical examinations may be required to assess the capacity of workers to work at height.

Insert contact details of participating organizations