



**TO: ALL SHIPYARD OCCUPIERS
ALL APPROVED SCAFFOLD CONTRACTORS**

**USE OF DOUBLE LANYARD SAFETY HARNESS
FOR SCAFFOLD ERECTORS IN SHIPYARDS**

Scaffolders are exposed to the hazard of falling from height during erection or dismantling of scaffolds. As the nature of the work requires them to move about throughout the course of erecting or dismantling of scaffolds, it may not be always practicable to provide scaffolders with a secure foothold and handhold at all times. It is therefore necessary to provide scaffolders with fall protection.

2 Shipyards have been implementing 100% fall protection for scaffolders by compulsory use of safety harnesses since January 2001. The compulsory use of safety harnesses has improved the safety of scaffolders.

3 Last year, however, there were two fatal accidents involving scaffolders, who fell to their death while erecting scaffolds. Investigations revealed that the victims of the two fatal accidents were wearing their safety harnesses but they did not anchor their safety harnesses.

4 The issue of scaffolders falling from height while erecting or dismantling scaffolds was discussed at a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health for the Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing Industry. The Advisory Committee has endorsed the additional measures proposed by the Occupational Safety Department to further enhance the safety of scaffold erectors in shipyards. These measures are:

- a) Every scaffold erector who is involved in the erection, installation, re-positioning, dismantling or alteration of a scaffold must be provided with a **double lanyard** safety harness attached to a shock absorbing device;
- b) Every scaffold erector must have at least one lanyard secured to an anchorage point or a lifeline at all times while erecting or dismantling scaffolds;
- c) An Inspection and Maintenance program must be established for the safety harness and other fall arresting devices to ensure that the said safety harness and devices are in good working condition and safe for use; and
- d) Supplementary or refresher training must be provided for scaffold erectors and riggers to train them on the proper method of wearing and safe use of the safety harness and other fall arresting devices.

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5 Shipyards are to implement these measures with effect from **1 April 2004**. Please bring to the attention of your scaffold contractors of the above additional measures to enhance the safety of scaffolders.

Yours faithfully,

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SHIPYARDS)
for DIRECTOR
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