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## Issue Number: TLP017

**Title:** London Bridge – Combisafe Bracket Fell from Height (27<sup>th</sup> January 2014)

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### Overview of Event

- Scaffolders were requested to remove sections of a Combisafe barrier installed on the perimeter of platform 14 at London Bridge station.
- Whilst the scaffolder was removing the final clamp and standard, the clamp became detached from the standard and fell 10 metres to the service yard slab below (still within the site).
- At the time the incident occurred two employees of a sub-contractor were carrying out an inspection of the service yard slab unaware of the scaffolders working above.

### Photographs

Shows platform 14 above with service yard below.

Yellow arrow indicates where clamp fell from and to.



Platform 15 illustration of combisafe system with standard and clamp attached to concrete slab.



### Underlying Causes:

- There are a number of underlying facts that contributed to the event: -
- Poor co-ordination of the activities led to the situation of putting two sub contractor operatives at risk from the falling clamp.
- Failure of scaffolders to either put in place or confirm that others had put in place an exclusion zone or other arrangements, to protect persons from falling objects, before they proceeded with the work. Assumptions had been made that there was an exclusion zone below for other works.
- The methodology used to dismantle and install the Combisafe equipment created a condition where the scaffolder was unable to prevent the clamp from falling.

### Key Message:

- Co-ordination of activities on site should be understood by all parties including Sub Contractors and Engineers.
- The management of exclusion zones should be clear for all works.
- Exclusion zones should utilise robust barriers with signage that are not easily moved.
- Specialised training / briefing should be given to operatives who use specific equipment ideally by suppliers / manufacturers e.g. Combisafe scaffold system