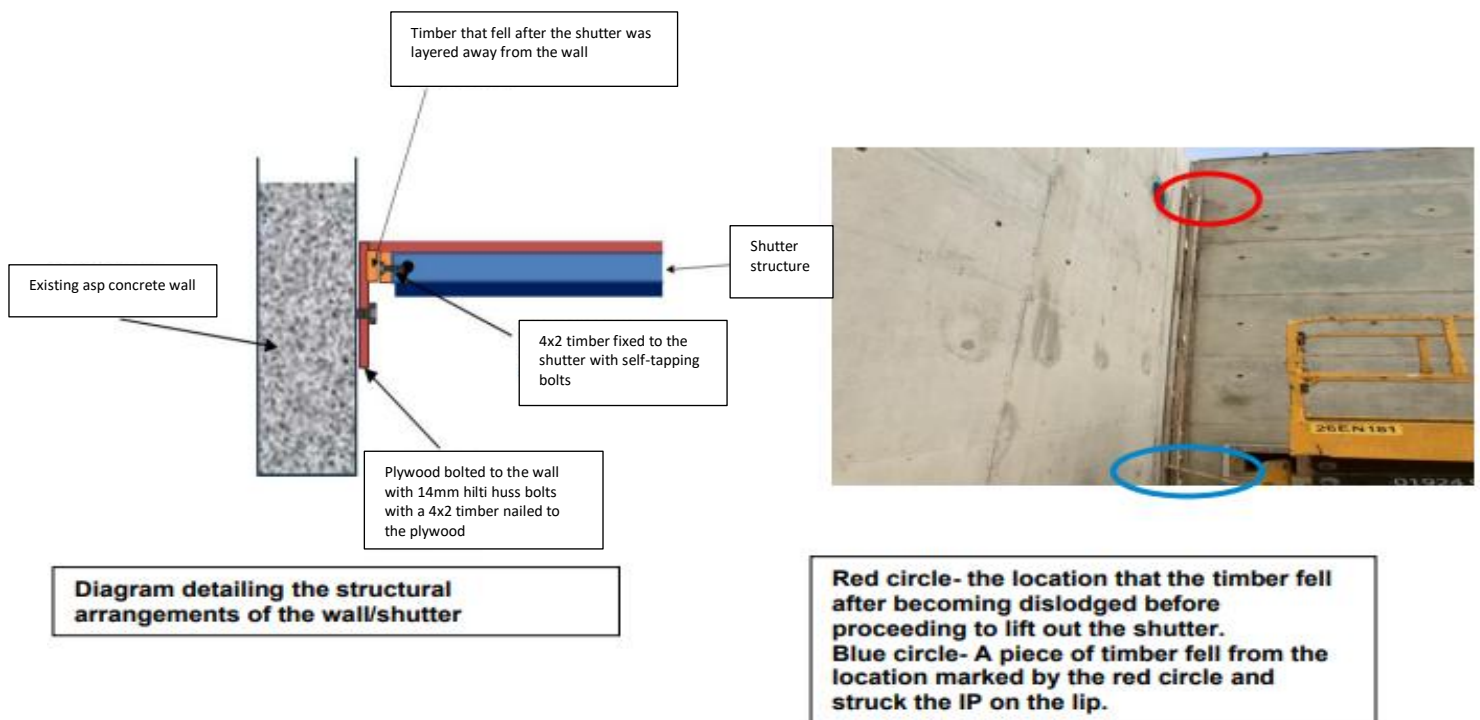


## Learning Alert 25-91 Cut Injury

### Incident Summary

While a team of subcontractors were carrying out de-shuttering activities during the construction of an ASP tank. During the activity, a piece of timber (800mm length) became dislodged and struck an operative, causing a slight cut to the IP's upper lip and a small graze to the chin.

### Photographs



### Root Cause(s)

Operative was stood in the danger zone of the lifting operation. The method statement for removing the shutters lacked information regarding how the striking should be carried out. It did not clearly explain the steps, where people should be positioned, or how to check and secure loose materials before lifting.

### Learnings – What do we need to do differently?

- Method statements need to clearly set out how shutters are to be struck, including securing checks and safe positioning of operatives.
- No one should be beneath or within proximity of the shutters during lifting, and exclusion zones must be abided by.
- The below outlines a step-by-step breakdown:
  1. Method Statement Improvement

- Provide clear, step-by-step instructions for striking shutters, including securing of loose materials and safe positioning of personnel.
  - Do not allow operatives working beneath shutters or within proximity during lifting operations.
2. Pre-Lift Safety Checks
    - Carry out a full inspection of shuttering and associated materials to ensure no loose items remain before lifting begins.
  3. Exclusion Zones
    - Establish and abide by exclusion zones around and beneath shutters being removed. Ensure all operatives are briefed and signage/barriers are in place.
  4. Implementation of HOSASS
    - Reinforce the Hands Off, Step Away, Safe Space principle in all lifting operations.

**Important Information:** Under UK law, lifting operations must comply with the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) and the Work at Height Regulations 2005, which require that lifting activities are properly planned, supervised, and carried out in a safe manner, with risks of falling objects controlled.

