

19 September 2025

To : All Authorized Persons
Registered Structural Engineers
Registered Geotechnical Engineers
Registered Inspectors
Registered General Building Contractors
Registered Specialist Contractors
Registered Minor Works Contractors

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Prevention Measures for Construction/Building Sites Safety
during Severe Tropical Storm “Ragasa”**

According to the forecast of the Hong Kong Observatory, **Severe Tropical Storm “Ragasa” (“樺加沙”)** may intensify to super typhoon strength and approach Hong Kong early next week. I am writing to solicit your immediate co-operation in conducting inspections and implementing measures to enhance safety at construction/building under your responsibility.

2. To ensure public and building safety, the following measures should be implemented to reduce the risk of accidents involving scaffolds during typhoon:

- (a) sufficient ties of adequate strength are provided to secure the cantilever portion at the topmost floor;
- (b) the height above the topmost floor should not be over-extended (maximum one floor);
- (c) adequate putlogs, ties, struts, bracing and steel brackets are provided to secure the scaffold framework;
- (d) protective screen or tarpaulins should be removed and the scaffolds above the topmost floor should be lowered to not more than half of the floor height under safe circumstance when a tropical cyclone warning signal or a strong monsoon signal is announced;
- (e) no materials should be placed on/near any scaffolds, or near the periphery of the site; and

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- (f) when the building works have been completed, the related scaffolds should be dismantled as soon as possible.

3. With regard to the safety of tower cranes in construction sites during typhoon, suitable safety precautionary measures should be drawn up with regard to the types of crane towers being used, surrounding site conditions and the tower crane manufacturers' recommendations. In general, the following safety precautionary measures against strong wind may be taken:

- (a) The main jib should be slewed to the side of the tower away from the wind, and then put into free slew. However, care must be taken to ensure that the jib would not collide with adjacent structures or overhead power cables;
- (b) The trolley of the crane with horizontal trolley jib should be placed near to the tower at minimum radius and the hook should be raised to its highest position;
- (c) The jib of luffing jib crane (including the articulated jib crane) should be brought to a position at 15° to the horizontal or other position according to the manufacturer's recommendation and the hook should be raised to its highest position;
- (d) If the manufacturer recommends to tie the jib and/or the hook to the specified anchorage points above the slewing ring, it should be made sure that the tie wires are of adequate strength and are tightened up properly; and
- (e) If situation warrants, the height of the crane tower above the topmost floor should be lowered as far as practicable.

4. Additionally, please ensure that any gondolas at construction sites have been secured in a safe position and properly secured.

5. Please immediately urge site supervision staff to inspect the safety of scaffolds, tower cranes and gondolas at construction sites, and ensure that appropriate precautionary measures against strong wind have been implemented.

6. You, as a responsible member of the Hong Kong construction industry are reminded your responsibilities under regulations 37(1) and (2) and 41(1) of the Building (Administration) Regulations to ensure site safety.

7. For safety issues regarding scaffolds and tower cranes, your attention is drawn to the Code of Practice (CoP) for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety¹, the Guidelines on the Design and Construction of Bamboo Scaffolds², the CoP for Site Supervision 2009 (2024 Edition)³, the CoP for Safe Use of Tower Cranes⁴ and the CoP in Times of Adverse Weather and "Extreme Condition"⁵.

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¹ www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/B/Bamboo.pdf

² www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/GDCBS.pdf


³ www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/SS2009_e.pdf

⁴ www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/B/crane.pdf

⁵ www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/wcp/Rainstorm.pdf

8. Please also refer to the Circular Letter on “Prevention Measures at Construction Sites during Rainy and Typhoon Seasons” issued by the Buildings Department (BD) on 16 April 2025. For details, please visit BD’s website at <https://www.bd.gov.hk/en/resources/codes-and-references/precautionary-measures-typhoon-season/index.html>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a vertical stroke and a small flourish.

(CHAN Wai-tong, Victor)
Chief Officer/Technical Services
for Director of Buildings

c.c. Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong