

16 April 2025

To : Property Management Companies

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Safety of Bamboo Scaffolds for Building Maintenance and Repair Works**

Bamboo scaffolds are commonly used in Hong Kong to facilitate building maintenance and repair works. Proper workmanship, close supervision and frequent inspection are essential to ensure the structural integrity of the bamboo scaffolds.

2. The scaffold works should be supervised by a competent person<sup>1</sup> who should thoroughly inspect the scaffolds. Before a tropical cyclone and after a tropical cyclone, heavy rain or storm, more frequent inspections must be provided when a tropical cyclone warning signal is announced. From past experience, most of the incidents involving the collapse of or related to bamboo scaffolds could be avoided if the following measures had been taken:

- (a) Engage a competent person to thoroughly inspect the bamboo scaffolds, including but not limited to their lateral ties, bracings, steel brackets, ledgers and posts, for any bamboo scaffold works;
- (b) Arrange regular inspections and maintenance of bamboo scaffolds<sup>2</sup> under the supervision of a competent person to ensure the structural safety and stability;
- (c) Dismantle bamboo scaffolds as soon as possible once the construction/renovation/repair/signboard/minor works are completed by trained workmen<sup>3</sup> under the immediate supervision of a competent person ; and
- (d) Report to the Buildings Department upon identification of any abandoned bamboo scaffolds.

/3. ...

<sup>1</sup> Competent person is defined in paragraph 2.3 of the Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety issued by the Labour Department.

<sup>2</sup> Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety refers.

<sup>3</sup> "Trained workman" is defined in paragraph 2.4 of the Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety.

3. I would like to remind you, as a responsible property manager, to familiarise yourself with and ensure compliance with the safety requirements for bamboo scaffolds. You should also advise owners and Incorporated Owners of the properties under your management and impress upon your staff and contractors the importance of the safety of bamboo scaffolds. Your attention is drawn to the information contained in:

- (a) Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety  
([www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/B/Bamboo.pdf](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/B/Bamboo.pdf));
- (b) Make sure bamboo scaffolds are safe against strong winds  
([www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/pamphlets-and-videos/wind\\_e.pdf](http://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/pamphlets-and-videos/wind_e.pdf));  
and
- (c) Guidelines on the Design and Construction of Bamboo Scaffolds  
([www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/GDCBS.pdf](http://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/GDCBS.pdf)).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, sweeping arch over the letters 'W' and 'T'.

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

c.c. The Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies Limited