

21 October 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,

**Use of Fire Retardant Protective Net/Screen/Tarpaulin/Plastic Sheeting on
Facade of Buildings under Construction, Demolition, Repair or Minor Works**

On 18 October 2025, a No. 3 alarm fire involving bamboo scaffolds broke out at the facade of a building under alteration, addition and minor works causing several casualties.

2. To ensure safety of buildings and building works, I call on you, registered building professionals and registered contractors, to take immediate action to inspect and ascertain that the protective net, screen, tarpaulin and plastic sheeting installed at the facade of buildings with works under your charge (including any sites under construction, demolition, repair and minor works) possess the appropriate fire retardant properties in compliance with the recognised standards to prevent the spread of fire should a fire occur. Your attention is drawn to the relevant requirements contained in:

- (a) Clause F5.6(e) of the “Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011” published by the Buildings Department (BD)
(https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/fs_code2011.pdf)
- (b) Paragraph 3.3.2 of the “Code of Practice for Demolition of Buildings 2004” published by the BD
(https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/Demolition_e2004.pdf)
- (c) Paragraph 4(a) of the “Practice Notes for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers” APP-70 published by the BD
(<https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/practice-notes-and-circular-letters/pnap/APP/APP070.pdf>)

/(d) ...

- (d) Paragraph 4(a) of the “Practice Note for Registered Contractors” 26 published by the BD
(<https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/practice-notes-and-circular-letters/pnrc/Pnrc26.pdf>)
- (e) Circular Letter dated 21 March 2023 published by the BD
(https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/practice-notes-and-circular-letters/circular/CL_UFRPNSTPSFBCDRMW2023e.pdf)
- (f) Paragraph 6.15 under Part C of the “Guidelines on the Design and Construction of Bamboo Scaffolds” published by the BD
(<https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/GDCBS.pdf>)
- (g) Paragraph 4.4.4 of the “Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety” published by the Labour Department
(<https://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/B/Bamboo.pdf>)
- (h) Construction Industry Council Safety Message No. 24/25
(<https://www.cic.hk/eng/>)

3. The BD is committed to upholding the safety of buildings and building works. If it is discovered that building works being carried out involve the use of protective net, screen, tarpaulin and plastic sheeting with inadequate fire retardant properties, the BD will take appropriate actions against the relevant persons and contractors under the Buildings Ordinance, including the consideration of instigating prosecution and disciplinary actions.

Yours faithfully,



(LAI Ho-cheong)
Assistant Director/New Buildings 2
for Director of Buildings

c.c. The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong