

30 August 2013

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,

**Safety of Scaffolding Works  
in Construction/Building Sites during Typhoon Season**

With the coming of typhoon season, I am writing to solicit your co-operation in paying special attention to the safety of scaffolding works.


From past experience, most of the incidents involving the collapse of scaffolds could have been avoided if the following site measures in scaffolding works were taken:-

- (a) sufficient ties of adequate strength are provided to secure the cantilever portion at the top most floor;
- (b) the height above the top most floor should not be over-extended (maximum one floor);
- (c) adequate putlogs, ties, struts, bracing and steel brackets are provided to secure the scaffolding frameworks;
- (d) any plastic sheeting should be removed when a tropical cyclone warning signal or a strong monsoon signal is announced; and
- (e) no loose materials should be placed on/near any scaffolding, or near the periphery of the site.

Please impress upon your site supervision staff on the importance of the safety of scaffolding works and ensure that the above site measures are taken in all scaffolding works. When the building works have been completed, the related scaffolds should be dismantled as soon as possible. Also, any scaffolds which remain idle should be promptly removed.

I would like to remind you, as a responsible member of the Hong Kong construction industry, of your responsibilities under regulations 37(1) and (2) and 41(1) of the Building (Administration) Regulations. Your attention is drawn to the related information contained in the 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)), the Guidelines on the Design and Construction of Bamboo Scaffolds ([www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/GDCBS.pdf](http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/GDCBS.pdf)) and the Code of Practice for Site Supervision 2009 ([www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/SS2009\\_e.pdf](http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/SS2009_e.pdf)).

Yours faithfully,



(K. L. TSE)  
for Building Authority