

24 June 2005

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Scaffolding Collapse Incidents
in the prevailing rainy and typhoon season**

In recent months there has been a series of scaffolding collapse which have caused a great deal of danger and inconvenience to the general public of Hong Kong.

With the onset of the rainy and typhoon season, I would request you to take particular attention to the construction, maintenance and dismantling of any scaffolding works that you may have erected.

Common reasons for these incidents have been attributed to the following anomalies: -

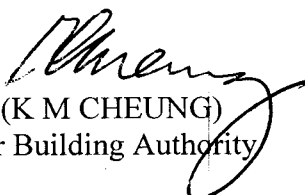
- (a) old and rotten bamboo scaffolding;
- (b) distorting and bulging within the bamboo scaffolding;
- (c) insufficient and inadequate tie wires, strutting and bracing; and
- (d) water logged scaffolding due to damaged and split bamboo poles.

Should construction site staff witness any of the above they should initiate immediate action to rectify the situation. When the building works have been completed, the related scaffolding should be dismantled as soon as possible. Also, any scaffolding which remain idle for a long time should be promptly removed.

As a responsible member of the Hong Kong construction industry, I remind you of your responsibilities under B(A)R37(1) and (2) and B(A)R41(1) and further request you to pay particular attention to the information contained within the Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety and the Code of Practice for Site Safety Supervision.

With reference to the above, I urge you to take the initiative to reduce the number of falling scaffolding incidents and have proper regard for safety of the public.

Yours faithfully,



(K M CHEUNG)
for Building Authority