

29 June 2007

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

With the approach of the 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 scaffold could have been avoided if the following site measures in scaffolding works were taken:-

- (a) provide sufficient ties of adequate strength 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) provide adequate putlogs, ties, struts, bracing and steel brackets to secure the scaffold framework; and
- (d) plastic sheeting, if any, should be removed when a tropical cyclone warning signal or a strong monsoon signal is announced.

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 scaffolding should be dismantled as soon as possible. Also, any scaffolding 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, and draw your attention to the related information contained in the Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety (<http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/B/BSCOP.htm>), Guidelines on the Design and Construction of Bamboo Scaffolds (www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/GDCBS.pdf) and the Code of Practice for Site Supervision 2005 (www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/ss2005_e.pdf).

Yours faithfully,



(K K CHOY)

for Building Authority