

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

21 March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

To prevent the spread of fire, Practice Note for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers APP-70 promulgated that plastic sheeting covering scaffolding erected around buildings under construction, demolition, renovation or repair should be flame retardant. Fire retardant requirements of tarpaulin used in demolition works are also promulgated under the Code of Practice for Demolition of Buildings 2004.

In this respect, protective net, screen, tarpaulin/plastic sheeting installed to cover the façade of buildings under construction, demolition, repair or minor works should have appropriate fire retardant properties in compliance with a recognised standard. Examples of recognised standards are listed below for reference:

- (a) GB 5725-2009 - Safety nets (or formerly GB 16909-1997 - Fine mesh safety vertical net);
- (b) BS 5867-2:2008 (Type B performance requirements) - Fabrics for curtains, drapes and window blinds - Part 2: Flammability requirements - Specification; and
- (c) NFPA 701:2019 (Test Method 2) - Standard methods of fire tests for flame propagation of textiles and films.

Other standards of equivalent fire retardant performance as per the above recognised standards may also be used.

Yours faithfully,



(AU-YEUNG Hoi-pang)  
Assistant Director/New Buildings 2  
for Building Authority

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