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Our reference 本處檔案編號 : (34) in LD ELD(EL2)/1-55/9  
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19 January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Proper Use of Suitable Safety helmet with chin strap on Construction Sites**

From the past accidents, the Labour Department (“LD”) noted that head injury accident is one of the major occupational accidents in Hong Kong, particularly in the construction industry. These head injury accidents may result in serious injury or even fatality to the workers. The main risks of head injury in the workplaces are as follows:

- (a) where a worker may be struck on his head by a falling, flying or swinging object;
- (b) where a worker may strike his head against a protruded object; and
- (c) where a worker may strike his head against hard surface during a fall or at the end of a fall.

2. To minimize the seriousness of head injury, an appropriate type of safety helmets with chin straps should be provided and properly used. The proper use of chin strap is important to keep the helmet in place to prevent it from dropping off, thus enhances the protection against impact on the workers’ heads, in particular during a fall from height.

3. In light of the above, LD is revising the Guidance Notes on the Selection, Use and Maintenance of Safety Helmets (“GN”) to include chin strap as an integral part rather than an accessory of a suitable safety helmet. The revised GN will clearly and explicitly specify the constructional features and compliance test requirement of a chin strap. To enhance the protection to workers, it will also spell out the function of the chin strap can help securing the safety helmet on worker’s head and prevent it from dropping off when there is head movement and during impact or fall of person from height. A suitable safety helmet with chin strap will mean one which is conforming to international/national standard [e.g. European Standard – Specification for industrial safety helmets (EN 397), People’s Republic of China National Standard

– Safety helmets (GB 2811) or equivalent]. The revised GN will be published in June 2018 tentatively.

4. Regulation 48 (1) of the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations, Cap.59I, requires a contractor responsible for a construction site:

- (i) to provide each workman employed on the site with a suitable safety helmet; and
- (ii) to take all reasonable steps to ensure that no workman remains on the site unless he is wearing a suitable safety helmet.

5. Starting from June 2018, LD will enforce the abovementioned Regulation by making reference to the revised GN.

6. If you have any query about this letter, please feel free to contact the Occupational Safety and Health Branch of LD at 2559 2297.

Yours faithfully,



(LEE Kam-fai)

for Commissioner for Labour