

## **Safety & Health Alert No. 32/2018**

### **Reminder on Guidance Notes on Safety and Health of Hand-dug Tunnelling Work – Labour Department**

Date : 8 August 2018  
Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

This serves as a reminder that the occupational safety and health (OSH) measures set out in the captioned Guidance Notes (GN) published by the Labour Department (LD) should be strictly followed and LD should be notified with the information of the tunnel works involving hand-dug method.

The GN requires that the “heading” hand-dug tunnelling method could only be adopted under exceptional conditions and where environment permits, and specifically sets out the stringent measures to be taken by the relevant duty-holders when such hand-dug tunnelling work is unavoidable. The GN shall take immediate effect, and for those hand-dug tunnelling works already commenced, efforts should be exercised to comply with the GN as far as reasonably practicable.

You must take the guiding principles of the GN into consideration when planning any trenchless/ tunnelling work and strictly follow the OSH measures as set out in the GN.

For effective monitoring the OSH performance, you are sincerely requested to notify LD once you intend to employ “heading” hand-dug tunnelling method in your works projects. In this connection, please provide the information of the works such as site location, construction period and name of the consultant (if any), principal contractor to be involved and respective contact persons via letter or email to:

**Mr CHAN Chi-ho**

**Senior Divisional Occupational Safety Officer (Operations Division)(Headquarters)1**

Address:

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The GN can be downloaded from the following link:

[http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/pdf/GN\\_on\\_S&H\\_of\\_Hand-dug\\_Tunnelling\\_Work\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/pdf/GN_on_S&H_of_Hand-dug_Tunnelling_Work_Eng.pdf)

Hard copies of the GN will be available for collection at the divisional offices of the Occupational Safety and Health Branch (OSHB) of LD from February 2018. The addresses and telephone numbers of LD offices can be found at their website at <http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/tele/osh.htm>

For any enquiries about the GN, please contact OSHB at:

Telephone: 2559 2297 (auto-recording service available outside office hours)

Fax: 2915 1410

E-mail: [enquiry@labour.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@labour.gov.hk)