

Here is the footage of “Housing Authority’s Site Safety Seminar for Capital Works New Works Contracts organised by the Hong Kong Housing Authority on 8 April, 2014. This is the 2nd Q & A session

The speakers, from left to right, were

Mr. Koeman CHAN, Business Development Manager of VHSOFT Technologies Co., Ltd (a subsidiary of Yau Lee Holdings Ltd)

Mr. Timothy LAU, Senior Manager / Safety & Health of the Housing Department

Mr. Henry CHEUNG, Senior Consultant of Occupation Safety & Health Council

Mr TAM Chiu-kwong, Divisional Occupational Safety Officer of Labour Department

I have a question for Mr. Tam. When erecting scaffolds, a safe access and egress should be prepared for workers. My question is whether the access and egress be erected after the scaffolds are built or during the erection of scaffolding. As some scaffolding workers advised me that they were afraid the access and egress to the scaffolding would mis-lead passerby to enter the incomplete scaffolding. What is the opinion of Labour Department?

Once I talked to a scaffolding worker. For example, when working at the high level of external walls of a parking lot, a ladder working platform was made for him to get to the external wall because of the height. When climbing out the external wall, he needed to wear safety equipment including safety harness, fall arrester and life rope to ensure his safety, only this can ensure the safety of scaffolding works. After the work at height, he could return to the indoor parking lot through the steps of working platform. During the erecting process, workers’ safety must be ensured.

In another situation, after the scaffolding was erected, of course it is not appropriate during the erection. If the access and egress is appropriate enough, there should be signs to tell workers they can use the access. During the erection of scaffolds, non-scaffolding workers should not enter the relevant area.

There was a case in which a worker unbuckled the safety harness hastily when he went back from an outdoor scaffold, but unfortunately he fell back accidentally when he stepped on the building edge and died. The accident was witnessed by his partner

who saw his two legs stepping on the same step carelessly. He should have not released the fall arrester of safety harness until he went back to the safe indoor area. By saving one or two seconds, he lost his life.

Is there any other question from the floor? If not, thank you for your participation in the seminar. Thank you!