

HASAS (NW) – 2015 Q2-Q3 Summary on Audit Findings

Here is the footage from “Site Safety Seminar for Capital Works New Works Contracts” organised by Hong Kong Housing Authority on 28 October 2015.

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His presentation topic is

“ Housing Authority Safety Auditing System (HASAS) Version 1.5 (For Building and Engineering Contracts) and Housing Authority Lift and Escalator Nominated Sub-contracts Safety Auditing System (HALENSAS) Version 1.0 in Q2 and Q3 of 2015” .

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Good afternoon, fellows of the industry.

I am Jack Fong from OSHC.

I will report on the results of the Housing Authority

Safety Auditing System(HASAS) in the past two quarters, Q2 and Q3 of 2015.

[script and video]

There will be examples of good practice for your reference.

Today, I will present an overview of HASAS performance in the past two quarters.

There will also be a summary

of good practices.

I will also talk about innovative safety measures that have been approved in the past two quarters.

Finally, I will discuss HALENSAS findings in the past two quarters.

Looking back on the past two quarters, the findings of HASAS are satisfactory.

The number of projects with an overall score of 80 or above in Part A and Part B is 42 in Q2, representing 95% of the projects.

In Q3, all 40 projects achieved the score.

Overall, the projects did well in the critical pass items.

But it's important to note that

the average score for housekeeping declined slightly.

Compared with the other items,

the score for housekeeping is significantly lower

even though it is up to standard.

We're talking about the average score here.

As to the performance of subcontractors,

In Air Conditioning, we had less data.

Three audits were done in Q2

and two audits in Q3.

All of them scored 70 or above.

As a summary of the past two quarters

more attention should be paid to housekeeping,

cleanliness inside the buildings in particular.

Also, more attention should be paid to the access for working at height,

as well as electrical safety.

Let me first share with you some examples of good practice.

More step ladders were being used on sites.

We have launched several financial subsidy schemes for SMEs,

in the hope that they could start using step ladders

and hop-up platforms,

lower than 2 metres in height.

Now we see that many companies have been using them.

Even big companies were using step ladders for working below 2 metres.

We are happy with the results.

Also, lightweight working platforms were often used on sites,

as well as mobile working platforms for works below 2 metres.

We are happy with what we saw,

and HASAS has been executed quite smoothly.

We also saw hop-up platforms being used on sites,

as well as hop-up platforms with railings.

Horizontal extension bars have been added to the legs so that the platform would be steadier.

Many sites were using ladders that comply with the EN131 international standard.

Elevated working platforms were also frequently used on sites.

While working on the platforms, the workers wore harnesses.

We are happy to see that.

Man-cages are often used in piling projects.

We didn't see any problems.

We are happy to see that

safe access has been provided

for those working on formwork.

This is a good example to follow.

Basically the bamboo working platform was well maintained, whereas safe means of access to bamboo scaffolds were provided.

There was safe access and egresses for gondolas.

Proper fencing was installed at building edges.

There were safe means of access in the workplace.

Housekeeping was satisfactory.

There were safe means of access for slope work.

This is worth mentioning.

Some sites had designated safe means of access, and the designated access points were marked by barriers of different colour, so that workers knew which is a proper access.

Openings were generally covered and fixed securely.

As to housekeeping, with good site planning, the results were usually good.

The areas for storing materials were satisfactory.

The materials were stacked up securely, and the H-piles were stacked up neatly.

Protruding steel bars were properly protected.

The sharp protruding points were covered or wrapped with plastic.

Housekeeping was properly maintained in the building.

Miscellaneous objects and waste materials were cleared regularly.

In terms of electrical works, cables were hung up.

In many sites, frames were added to hang up the cables, so that they didn't lie on the ground.

This can also hang up the cables.

In addition, some grinding machines were fitted with suitable protective guards.

Generally 110V tools were used.

Protective guards were provided for the cables of bar bending machines.

Designated lifting gears for H piles were used in many sites

Some used H clamps for designated tasks.
Some lifting hooks were provided with safety latches.
Interlock safety latches
which required the release of the interlock before the hook can be opened.
This is another design that served the same purpose.
The interlock must be opened in order to turn on the hook.
In another practice,
double steel wires were used during lifting operations.
If one wire broke,
the other one could continue to lift the materials.
This provided dual protection.
Large safe lifting banners were also displayed at the sites
to remind workers on the importance of safe lifting.

More sites were equipped with AED,
automated external defibrillators.
More sites had this kind of equipment,
and the people who have received relevant training were shown.
so as to allow someone to handle the situation when there is a need.
Coolers were provided
to keep the sites cool in summer.
Mobile laundry facilities were provided on site,
not only on this site,
but we also saw washing machines on other sites.
Workers could wash their clothes with the washing machines.
Whip check devices were generally used.
Drinking facilities and resting areas were provided.
Acoustic screens
were provided for noisy operations
acoustic screens.
Some sites had RFID Helmet Pairing System,
where RFID chips have been added to helmets.
Through this system,
the entry and exit of workers can be recorded.
The system can also be used in other workplaces.
There were designated welding area with safety notices and rules.
The abrasive cutter were installed with an appropriate safety guard and posted with
notice.

This could also be done for the mobile abrasive cutters. Notices could be put up nearby as required by the law.

In the past two quarters, several safety innovative measures utilising RFID technology have been approved.

One of them is similar to the system I mentioned before.

RFID is used in contactless entry/exit record system.

Through installing RFID chips to safety helmets, the system can record who has entered or exited the site.

In particular, monitored working environments will benefit from this, such as confined spaces.

If someone has entered, the system will know who they are and whether they are authorised to do that.

The entry/exit records will be saved in the computer system.

As they leave, the system will know if anyone has been left inside.

This is an excellent monitoring and recording system.

Interlock safety protective guardi for bar bending machines is another approved safety innovative measures.

As you can see there is an iron plate here.

When it flips downwards, the interlock guard would be activated.

Then the bar bending machine can be operated when the worker steps on the pedal.

If the iron plate has not flipped downwards, even if the worker steps on the pedal, the machine cannot be operated.

This is how the interlock guard works.

The machine also has an automatic power-off function.

If it has remained idle for 30 seconds, it cannot be started.

This prevents the interlock guard from being interfered with.

If the machine has been idle for 30 seconds, the iron plate, namely the interlock guard, has to be re-activated in order to operate the bar bending machine.

A safety training with BIM has also been approved.

This video is produced by a company
to introduce the lifting plan of lorry-mounted cranes.
When a lorry-mounted crane enters the site,
the site needs to be enclosed.
And the lifting de-rating chart needs to be studied.
They have also studied the de-rating chart.
If the lifting position is at the front of the vehicle,
the lifting load is relatively lower.
This has achieved excellent results in training,
showing workers lifting safety and procedures.

Now I will speak briefly about the findings of HELENSAS
in the past two quarters.

The results are generally satisfactory.
There are a number of good practices.
For example, railings and toe boards have been installed to the top of the lift cars.
There was sufficient lighting.
Safety harnesses were attached to anchor points.
Safety harnesses, attached to independent lifelines, were used
when entering and exiting the shaft.
Safety nets were fitted to the lift shafts.
Some companies were able to do these.
Openings were covered
and properly marked.
Hand tools,
especially when used at height,
had been provided with hand straps
to prevent them from falling.
Housekeeping was generally well managed.

110V power-driven tools were used generally.

Electric winches were properly guarded.

That's all for my presentation.