

Here is the footage from

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

This is the 2nd Q&A session.

The speakers, from left to right, were

Mr Ray Tsui, Senior Consultant of the Occupational Safety & Health Council (OSHC),

Mr Jack Fong, Senior Consultant of OSHC,

Mr Timothy Chee-tim Lau, Senior Manager (Safety and Health) of the Housing Department,

and Mr Mak Hon-kuen, Chief Technical Officer/Audit(1) of the Housing Department.

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This question is for the OSHC representatives.

on site, many works were under

a permit-to-work system.

Can the permit-to-work system be implemented through mobile apps?

Implementing the permit-to-work system in smartphones is easier, not only in terms of implementation but also for auditing to check whether the system is implemented properly.

A record can be made instantly.

Can it be done with smartphones?

We haven't discussed this in our meetings.

Some of the permits to work permits-to-work have to meet legal requirements.

Those cannot be done with smartphones.

For example, for confined spaces, we must comply with the regulations.

We have seen work sites using smartphones to acknowledge permit-to-work documents,

but we are not sure how their mobile apps work.

We need to look into that further.

We have some experience in applying mobile apps on application of permits,

but not according to the legal requirements for confined spaces.

It was applied to hot work permits.

I have another question.

We talked about “Pointing and Calling”.

I believe the system has many advantages, but when it is implemented in Hong Kong,

we run into problems like how Chinese people of different nationalities can adapt to it.

With regard to the current pace,

will there be any procedures that we must apply “Pointing and Calling” to? Can we choose the procedures?

How will this develop in future?

Our posters are based on information we collected from the industry jointly with OSHC after a function in July.

We start with lifting, because it is a high risk procedure.

Next we will have electricity. We’re working on that now.

The posters will be uploaded to our site safety website.

Hopefully executives will promote the system and also learn more about it.

As to whether we will specify in the contract that the slogan must be said, we are working to have the industry adapt to the system.

We will communicate with the industry, to find out if the entire industry thinks this is good and if it is willing to implement this.

We need more discussions.

Right now, we're focussing on education and promotion. It will take time.

When a worker has no choice but to use a ladder – when there are limitations, for example, when there is not enough room –

to do some simple work,

it is necessary to implement the permit to work system.

How does that work?

Is there any difficulty in implementing the system?

Ladders are actually used by frontline workers, but a comprehensive risk assessment is required.

There is a permit to work permit-to-work that needs to be signed for and cancelled.

How does it work?

I remember certain requirements have been added to new contracts.

In the case that step platforms, working platforms and hop-up platforms cannot be used,

when work cannot be performed under special circumstances, risk assessment must be carried out.

Only if it is proven that none the abovementioned tools can be used, then the worker can use a ladder.

But a fall arrest system must be in place.

Even if a worker falls from the ladder,  
there will be adequate safety protection measure  
to reduce the likelihood of injury.

We cannot violate the regulations laid down by the Labour Department.

The law is the baseline.

All procedures and operations must comply with the law.

I am sure our colleagues from the Labour Department can answer your question in  
more detail.

If you would give them a call, they would be most willing to answer your question.

So if you have no further questions about the contents of today's seminar,

Thank thank you very much for coming.