

Here is the footage from  
Site Safety Seminar for Capital Works New Works Contracts  
which was held on 11 December 2020  
Now is the 2nd Question and Answer Session

First a question for Mr Chan from Able Engineering  
The question is: would you mind letting us know  
how much was your company's investment in the safety innovations?  
Were they as effective as you had anticipated?

Thank you

Actually the total investment amount was not any big secret  
Each turnstile cost less than \$100000 and was not really expensive  
The software was more costly costing a few hundred thousand dollars  
At inception we joined this company in research and development  
and we also invested some resources into the research  
We are now using these systems on a few sites besides Tuen Mun  
We have found them very useful and worthwhile

Thank you both

Our next question is for Dr King Wong  
Are there any kinds of utility piping that cannot be surveyed?

First of all thank you for your question

It depends on how you define 'impossible'

Under limitations there would be things that are impossible

But without any limitations including financial limitations

then we should be able to survey any kind of piping

Thank you Dr Wong

Our next question is for Mr Fong from the OSHC

Risk management was the theme of the Housing Authority Safety Forum this year

In the past two quarters we have seen a drop in the average scores

Do you have any ideas for contractors to improve their marks?

We have already shared some examples of how to score high

Conversely we should think about how to avoid mark deduction

The key is to look back at the areas where we had deducted marks

and look at the items that we award points to

Often you might not have confirmed

if certain types of work need risk assessment or not

and very often this step had not been done

or risk assessment had been done very randomly

and was not specific for the actual operations or site characteristics  
Sometimes we saw irrelevant risk assessment being carried out  
which was not ideal

The second thing to pay attention to is:

have you identified those required to join the risk assessment?

There are two assessment teams

Do the key members have the relevant experience and training etc.?

If they lack relevant experience or training marks would be deducted

The third point is something I have mentioned before

In your safety plan you may have confirmed or promised to  
carry out certain forms of risk assessment

Are your assessment results matching with your real output?

If they do not match then we may have to deduct marks

Another area to pay attention to is the quality of the risk assessment  
assessment personnel can spot obvious mistakes

and the staff from OSHC would spot them too

Serious mistakes are another cause for mark deduction

Method statements are also another area of concern

We have seen some very crudely prepared method statements

It is crucial for the method statement to match the risk assessment

If they do not then marks will be deducted too

Also if a serious accident occurred and the Labour Department

had issued an improvement notice or a suspension notice  
then we will be looking for any further checks or follow-up

for these areas and risk assessments

If the answer was no then again

I believe that if we all pay attention to these areas

it would help you score higher in the future

Thank you Mr Fong

Our final question is also for Mr Cheung OSHC

In the first part of your sharing

the audience saw that the gondola's traction machine was inside it  
with the main and secondary ropes hanging downwards outside the barriers

So the question is: can the ropes be operated vertically?

Thank you for your question

I guess what you intend to ask is whether it is safe to operate

because there may be worries about the rope passing through the climber  
is not hanging vertically downwards to the ground

Another possibility is that if the rope is not hanging vertically down but hanging over the barriers then during operation would there be any problems caused by the rope and the barriers rubbing against each other?

It is a basic question whether this is a normal operation method

Every gondola has a different design

My previous presentation slides showed that the gondola was not a simple rectangular shape

but it was curved and pressed against the external wall

Of course there are lots of different designs including

those where the traction machine is in the middle of the gondola

And this particular rope hangs over the barriers before it reaches the ground

Was this the original intention of the manufacturer?

That is the heart of the matter

How do we find out? Through a manual?

This was assembled in Hong Kong without an assembly manual

Why was there no manual?

How can we allow contractors to use equipment without operation manuals?

Then we need the contractor to prove that this is a normal way to operate

For example the contractor would need to go to the company from where they rented the gondola

and ask them to prove this was the originally intended method of use

Then it is OK. There is also one more thing to consider

which is the 'Registered Professional Engineer' (RPE)

Under what circumstances would an RPE issue a certificate?

How should the rope be placed?

If you do not find the answer yourself

then the contractor has to prove this is a normal way of operating

I am answering your question in a general way

by thinking through the standard process

I hope my answer is helping you

Thank you