

Captions:

This is a clip from the 18 April 2023 recording of the

Hong Kong Housing Authority

“Site Safety Seminar for Capital Works New Works Contracts”

This is Part II of the Q&A session

The speakers on stage, in the order of questions, are

Mr. Timothy Lau, Senior Manager (Safety and Health), Housing Department

Mr. Steve Hu, Senior Consultant, Occupational Safety and Health Council

Mr. Jack Fong, Senior Consultant, Occupational Safety and Health Council

M.C. :

This is the second part of the question and answer session

Mr. Hu, Mr. Fong and Mr. Lau

will be answering your questions

Mr. Steve Hu:

Hello, everyone. Before answering your questions

allow me to explain this slide

On 1 April 2023, Housing Authority has changed

the safety targets from

nine accidents per thousand workers per year to eight per thousand workers

We have updated the target on our website and informed our contractors

with the hope of enhancing safety on sites

What kind of impacts will it bring?

For ongoing contracts with “pay for safety” terms

it will remain unchanged at nine per thousand workers

The changes will apply to new tenders and the forms have been updated

For those preparing for new tender documents

please attach the new documents

This will have a bearing on contractors

If the accident rate exceeds eight per thousand workers

some payments would be affected

Meanwhile, for ongoing projects

Our Contractors Review Committee (CRC)

will keep track of the accident rate of each project

For building contracts that have been in progress for a year or more

if the accident rate exceeds eight per thousand workers

the contract manager will send an alert to the contractor

to remind the contractor that the accident rate is on the high side

and that it has to pay more attention

The way the accident rate is calculated is that

if no new accidents happen over a period of time

the accident rate would gradually go down

That is why we have to keep working on it

Well, will it affect a contractor's scores in the

Performance Assessment Scoring System, or "PASS"?

An alert from a contract manager will not have any bearing

since no points would be deducted for "alerts"

However a warning from the contract manager will have an impact

It is up to a contract manager to decide whether to issue a warning

However the paramount saliency is to avoid on-site accidents

Nobody knows if the next accident will be fatal

We cannot gamble on it, right?

Let us continue to work hard on it

M.C.:

Are there any questions from the audience?

Audience:

A question for Mr. Steve Hu of OSHC

At what stage should we install protective canopies and safety nets over bending yards?

Mr. Steve Hu:

Thank you for your question

It is very important to prevent falling objects so as to avoid workers being hit by anything from above as we can see from the two photos earlier

I think I have not mentioned the height

For safety nets over bending yards, it is stated clearly in the surprise safety inspection criteria of version 17

I believe the report of Jack Fong has also mentioned it

At a bar bending yard, when construction reaches the third floor safety nets should be put in place

to ensure the safety of workers underneath

Protective canopies should be installed when construction reaches the 7th floor

Sometimes, during surprise safety inspection, we noticed in previous photos that requirements were not met

They may say the material has not arrived, or so on

In fact, the material should have been ordered during planning stages

When construction reaches the relevant floors

safety nets or protective canopies should be erected

Thank you

M.C.:

Thank you, Mr. Hu

A question from an online participant for Mr. Jack Fong

If a procedure is not performed at the time of a safety audit
will the entire section be crossed out as “not applicable” or “N/A”?

Mr. Jack Fong:

We often come across this kind of situation during auditing

Perhaps certain procedures are not in progress on the day

However, our audits do not just focus on the day of the visit
but also what happens three months before and after

For example, say, there is no lifting operation
on the day of site audit

If the project involves the construction of a new building
there would absolutely be lifting operation at some point
for the delivery of material, etc

In this case, we require our auditors to assess the relevant parts

They may not see the operation physically

but they have to make sure relevant precautions are followed

For example, auditors would ask contractors if they know relevant laws and
regulation

Auditors would look at whether such laws and regulations are stated in their safety
plans, as well as guidelines, etc

We will make sure risk assessments have been conducted

Has a competent person been engaged for inspections?

Were checklists compiled and followed for each procedure?

We will assess using all these criteria

Some procedures may be completed during the course of a project

For example, when a building is nearly completed
perhaps tower cranes on site have all been dismantled

We do not foresee the use of them in future either

Such items will be marked as “not applicable” or “NA”

This also happens quite frequently

M.C.:

Thank you, Mr. Fong and other speakers

Thank you for your participation

This concludes the seminar

Let us continue to work hard to ensure site safety

Thank you

Caption :

Thank you for watching