

This is a clip from the 18 October 2024 recording of the  
Hong Kong Housing Authority  
"Site Safety Seminar for Capital Works New Works Contracts"

The second Q&A session

\*\*\*\*\*

(00:12)

Hello, I would like to ask if it is acceptable to use homemade hand straps  
for hand tools on construction sites? Thank you

Thank you for your question

Earlier in the presentation, there was a slide mentioning  
some tools tied with bamboo strips as hand straps for hand tools

We also mentioned seeing cases during auditing  
where workers simply used red strings or hemp strings  
as lanyards for hand tools

This practice is not acceptable

The problem with homemade tool lanyards is that  
no one knows how much weight they can actually bear  
There is also a risk of the tool slipping out during use  
because there is not a secure attachment point like around the wrist or another fixed position  
So it is not ideal

So we recommend during the auditing  
contractors should be required to use up-to-standard hand strap for hand tools

What is the acceptable standard?

There is a safety standard to consider in the industry  
such as ANSI 121, which is an acceptable standard

Tool hand straps meeting this standard

undergo rigorous testing

including drop tests in various environments

dry, wet, low-and-high-temperature conditions

These tests provide a reliable assurance of safety

Tool hand straps will also indicate their safe working load

Additionally, if a tool weighs more than

generally speaking 5 pounds

it is recommended to attach it to the wrist

For tools exceeding 5 pounds, the risk of falling has to be considered

Consider to secure them to other fixed structures or eyebolts

for greater safety

Are there any other colleagues with questions?

Thank you, Mr. Steve HU and Mr. Jack FONG for your sharing

Earlier in the presentation, we saw that

for working above ground on construction sites, A-frame ladders are prohibited to use

Instead, safe working platforms are required

and these safe working step platforms must meet the EN131 standard

Aside from EN131, are there any other standards that need to be followed?

Thank you for your question.

Actually, the EN131 standard you mentioned is not entirely accurate

Why? EN131 refers to a series of step platform standards

including EN131-1, -2, up to -7

Mr. Jack FONG also mentioned EN131-7 just now

We believe that EN131-7 is the standard suitable for working above ground

because as Mr. Fong just said

EN131-7 has undergone rigorous tipping tests

making it safe to work on

During our inspections, we saw that a small number of contractors

were only using the EN131 standard

which basically means they are using working platforms that do not meet the proper standards

Everyone must pay attention to this

Also if you want to know which suppliers

can provide step platforms or hop-up platforms that meet the EN131-7 standard

the Occupational Safety and Health Council has a SME Sponsorship Scheme

that includes information about suppliers who comply with the standards

You can inquire there, thank you

Thank you for watching

(05:01)