

This is a clip from the 16 October, 2025 recording of the
Hong Kong Housing Authority
“Site Safety Seminar for Capital Works New Works Contracts”
The second Q&A session

(00:12)

I would like to ask Mr Jack FONG
under the requirements of Version 1.8 of the Safety Auditing System
whether floor openings must be provided with
an automatic access monitoring and warning system?

In Version 1.8
there is indeed such a requirement
If a floor opening
measures 500 millimetres by 500 millimetres or above
an electronic warning device needs to be installed
such as an electronic lock
When someone opens it
the system will sound an alarm to alert others
that a covered opening has been opened without authorisation
so that the relevant personnel can be notified

However, whether this applies to all situations
depends on several different circumstances
The first situation is where the opening
regardless of its size
already has a fixed cover and the cover is securely fixed
meaning it cannot be opened at will
with warning signs also provided
In that case, the requirement mentioned just now does not apply

If the opening has already been properly covered
and is not intended to be opened
there is no need to install an electronic device

But if the opening is 500 millimetres by 500 millimetres or above
and is designed to be opened
meaning it is not fixed
and needs to be opened under certain circumstances
then the device mentioned just now needs to be installed

If the opening is larger than 500 by 500 millimetres
and using a cover plate is not practicable
then in this situation, you need to adopt other feasible measures

For example, you may install fixed guardrails
and the guardrails must be properly fixed
and able to protect people from the risk of falling
This would also be acceptable

If the opening presents a fall risk and presents a certain level of risk
a fall arrest net needs to be installed

To answer your question just now
we can look at this in three situations

First, if the opening is already securely covered
no electronic device is required

Second, if the opening is 500 by 500 millimetres or above
and is designed to be opened
an electronic device needs to be installed

Third, if installing an electronic device is not practicable
then guardrails need to be installed

I hope this answers your question

Thank you, Mr Jack FONG

An online audience member has a question for Mr Steve HU

Tool lanyards were also mentioned just now

They would like to know what safety requirements apply

I missed out the relevant standard just now

Regarding the standard

one equivalent standard is ANSI / ISEA 121, which was updated in 2018

This requirement has in fact also been incorporated into

Version 18 of the Surprise Safety Inspection Programme

and Version 1.8 of the Safety Auditing System

Starting from the next quarter, we will formally implement this requirement

If our colleagues see that you are still using

bamboo strips, ordinary ropes or similar items as tool lanyards

marks will be deducted

Therefore, compliant tool lanyards must be used

Let me add one more point

because our Council's teaching materials also mention tool lanyards

But I have noticed that

tool lanyards are not a solution for every situation

If the tool itself is too heavy

even if it is attached to a tool lanyard

when working at height, if it falls, the lanyard may still break

In addition, some brands of tool lanyards come with labels

As for whether all brands have such labels

everyone can check further

For the type we are currently using

the load capacity seems to be 2.3 kilograms, or around 5 pounds

For example, if you secure a tool with a tool lanyard

and attach the lanyard to the metal buckle of a full-body harness

then when the tool falls

the impact force will be borne by the metal buckle
But if the tool weighs more than 2.3 kilograms
it is not recommended to attach it to the body
In this situation, a more ideal practice
is to attach it to a secure anchorage point on a structure

If it falls
the impact force will be borne
by the secure anchorage point on the structure

In addition, compliant tool lanyards that we see
will clearly indicate the maximum load capacity
For the type we commonly see
if I remember correctly, it is around 15 pounds

However, for the specific figure,
everyone can check the label again to confirm
That is roughly the situation
Thank you

There is also another question from an online audience member
What should we pay attention to in rebar fixing areas?
Could Mr Steve HU provide some suggestions?
There was also a photo just now
relating to the Housing Department standard
I did not explain it in detail just now
so I will reiterate it here

The Housing Department standard is very important
because when working on construction sites
one of the major risks apart from persons falling from height
is falling materials
Rebar fixing yards are usually very close to the area below critical floors
where rebar fixing works are carried out
The Housing Department has many related requirements
The protective canopy mentioned just now is one of them

In addition, for locations such as rebar fixing yards because workers face a higher level of this type of risk the Housing Department requires that when construction of the critical floor reaches the third floor protective screens and safety netting must be installed at the rebar fixing yard This must be used

If construction has reached the third floor and it has still not been installed or used marks will also be deducted The same applies to safety audits

Thank you

Thank you for watching

(06:54)