

This is a clip from the 28 April 2025 recording of the  
Hong Kong Housing Authority  
“Site Safety Seminar for Capital Works New Works Contracts”  
The second Q&A session

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(00:13)

Hello everyone

Regarding the obstacle detection equipment  
for Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) mentioned just now  
are there any relevant safety requirements for installation?

Thank you for your question

First of all, the Labour Department  
has issued guidance notes on the safe use of MEWPs  
The guidance notes state that  
if contractors or users  
install or use these devices  
in a way that involves major modifications  
they should first seek advice from the manufacturer

In addition, I would also like to add one more point  
because we have also seen this issue on construction sites  
No matter what device is added  
apart from referring to the Labour Department’s advice  
a risk assessment should also be carried out,  
or professional advice should be sought  
to assess whether the additional devices  
may interfere with the original safety functions of the MEWP  
Of course, as mentioned earlier by Mr Glenn HO and Mr Jack FONG  
the audit criteria have now been revised  
to strengthen the requirements for MEWPs  
If additional devices are to be installed

we also suggest considering the use of some smart devices  
When an operator is using the MEWP  
if a dangerous condition arises  
for example, before there is a risk of entrapment or crushing injury,  
or before approaching a danger zone  
the system can stop the machine automatically, or even cut off the power  
This should be one of the principles we need to follow  
Thank you

There is also another question

I would like to ask about storage areas for large panel formwork  
what safety points should we pay attention to  
regarding their placement and storage?  
Thank you

If we are referring to metal formwork panels, we have a few suggestions

First, under the Housing Department's requirements  
large panel formwork is relatively heavy  
and its centre of gravity usually leans towards the supporting-leg side  
In other words, the supporting legs must be adequately supported  
and the ground beneath the support points must be firm  
If they are only placed on timber boards  
or even on plastic boards as shown in the photo just now  
these would not provide reliable support  
The correct practice is to ensure that the overall centre of gravity falls  
within the support base of the legs  
and that the formwork is firmly supported on solid and level ground

In addition, since large metal formwork storage is a high-risk area  
we hope contractors will have overall planning  
before carrying out the works

These designated areas should  
preferably restrict access by unauthorised persons  
They should not be casually placed in areas without proper enclosure

and without warning signs

I have also seen some situations

where, due to limited space on site

these materials are placed near workers' access points or passageways

This is not ideal

So our principle is that they should be stored in designated areas

with proper enclosure, clear warning signs

and sufficient, stable support

These are the principles we recommend following

Thank you

I would like to ask whether the newly revised Version 1.8

of the Safety Auditing System

applies to all construction sites

Thank you for your question

I believe this is also a question many people would like to know

Does the new Version 1.8 of the Safety Auditing System

apply to all construction sites?

The answer is that some parts may not be fully applicable

What is the reason behind this?

In fact, the changes to the Safety Auditing System this time

are mainly based on several aspects

First, they are based on the latest codes of practice

or other guidelines from the Labour Department

For requirements that have already been formally introduced

such as requirements relating to

the alignment and support of bamboo scaffolding

once the grace period has ended

these requirements must be implemented immediately

There are also some items

which simply state the existing standards more clearly

For example, the step platforms and hop-up platforms

mentioned just now

These requirements have already been implemented for several quarters

including EN131-7 and tool lanyard standards

They are only being stated more clearly as existing standards

As for some items, time is needed for implementation

For example, some training requirements

as mentioned just now

the Housing Department's new contracts have added training requirements for general workers

But everyone understands

that these arrangements may not be fully implemented within a short period of time

Therefore, this type of training course

will need to have a grace period

As for some other requirements

they belong to the Housing Department's new contract provisions

For example, the Smart Site Safety System

For existing contracts, if relevant requirements already exist

such as artificial intelligence monitoring, radio frequency identification and danger zone monitoring

if they are already stated in the existing contract

then they need to continue to be implemented

But some items apply only to new contracts

For example, the central management platform mentioned just now

If this requirement is not included in the old contract itself

but the contract manager has such a requirement

then it will need to be implemented

If there is no instruction from the contract manager

this type of question can be marked as not applicable

In addition, the changes relating to temporary works

were also mentioned just now

One of the bigger changes is that many new questions have been added

Some questions only apply to categories included in new contracts

If the existing contract does not have the relevant classification

then the requirements of the existing contract should be followed

However, many questions cannot be marked as not applicable

because questions relating to temporary works have always existed

They do not exist only in new contracts

Therefore, the practice for temporary works

must still follow the requirements of the old contract

But for example, regarding video recording of demolition works

this may not be stated in the existing contract

and may only be newly added in the new contract

If the contract manager has no relevant requirement

then those two questions can be marked as not applicable

In fact, our requirements document

has already set out clearly

which items are applicable and which are not applicable

When you return to your sites

you may study it carefully again

There is a question online

about the 3.5-hour safety training for general workers

The question is what mode of training this is,

and whether there is a designated course

We will also give a brief preview here

Apart from including this requirement

in Version 1.8 of the Safety Auditing System

there may also be an opportunity to include it

in our own contract requirements in the future

Perhaps Mr Fong

can further introduce the 3.5-hour safety training and its content

This course was originally designed  
mainly for general workers  
because their work is usually more mobile  
and may not require highly specialised skills

However, on construction sites  
they also come into contact with many types of work  
and need to enter many dangerous locations  
Sometimes, they may not even realise which areas are dangerous

Therefore, the design of this course  
mainly aims to remind them and raise their alertness  
In the course content  
we have included many case studies  
as well as reminders  
and points to note

Overall, we hope to use a simple, clear and easy-to-understand  
approach  
to help them understand which areas are dangerous  
what can be done  
and what should not be done

The original intention of this course  
is in fact to raise their awareness  
Before starting work  
they should stop for a moment and think  
This alone can help reduce many accidents  
This is the main intention of this course

Thank you for watching

(09:40)