

25 September 2023

Dear CEOs, General Managers, and Senior Management of the Construction Industry,

Call for Immediate Joint Action to Ensure Workers Safety

In light of the recent series of serious accidents, including crane overturning, electrocution, tilting of prefabricated components, and falling of guided suspended working platform in lift shaft resulting in fatalities and injuries to several workers, it is evident that the safety culture within the industry is extremely fragile. The confined space multiple fatalities happened yesterday, which led to the loss of loved ones from two families, was particularly shocking. We are deeply concerned about the number of accidents resulting in deaths and injuries that have occurred over the past few weeks.

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) wishes to convey a crucial message to the industry regarding the safety of workers, which is not only of immediate concern but also vital for the future of the entire construction sector. These accidents serve as a stark reminder that even the slightest incident can escalate into a fatal event, causing harm to multiple individuals. The CIC urges CEOs, General Managers, and Senior Management to take the following two important measures immediately to prevent the situation from worsening:

1. CEOs, General Managers, and Senior Management to issue Safety Alerts to Organisations and Project Sites: To ensure that frontline operatives, workers, and relevant personnel are fully aware of the recent serious accidents. Evaluate the current safety risks and emergency situations at each construction site, conduct dynamic risk assessments, and implement necessary improvements in real-time to ensure a safe working environment.
2. Voluntary “Industry Stand-down Day”: The CIC proposes that each organisation and project site in the industry to organise a voluntary “Industry Stand-down Day” independently by choosing their own time and location, to conduct a moment of silence in remembrance of our departed colleagues and to emphasise the importance of safety. The CIC will provide relevant information for the solemn ceremony and safety materials related to high-risk tasks for reference. We encourage the industry to thoroughly assess high-risk activities at their respective sites



on the suggested stand-down day. CEOs, General Managers, and Senior Management should personally visit the construction sites to convey the importance of safety to frontline operatives and workers, expressing their care and support for their well-being. Active participation and support from senior management will greatly encourage and motivate frontline operatives and workers, thereby enhancing the safety culture.

With the approaching Mid-Autumn Festival, we earnestly urge the industry to prioritise safety and ensure that workers return home safely to celebrate with their families.

Lastly, the CIC sincerely seeks the support of all stakeholders in the industry and urges strict adherence to the aforementioned safety measures. We kindly request you to forward this letter and its attachments to your colleagues in the industry, hoping that together, we can make concerted efforts to prioritise safety and ensure that construction industry workers can work in a secure environment, creating a safer and healthier construction industry.

Thank you very much for your attention and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Ir Thomas HO
Chairman

Ir Dr Derrick PANG
Chairperson of Committee
on Construction Safety

Ir Albert CHENG
Executive Director



Appendix

- (I) Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry
- (II) Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On



- Electrical Work)
- (III) Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Lifting Operation)
 - (IV) Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Erection and Dismantling of Scaffold or Platform)
 - (V) Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Work-above-ground Operation)
 - (VI) Safety Measures – Confined Space
 - (VII) Silent Tribute Handbook (Chinese version only)
 - (VIII) Silent Tribute Reference Rundown

Appendix: Reference Materials

(I) <u>Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry</u>	
(II) <u>Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Electrical Work)</u>	
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(IV) <u>Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry (Practical Reference Guidance On Erection and Dismantling of Scaffold or Platform)</u>	
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