



# **A Holistic and Systemic Approach: Effective Safety Management System is Critical to Enhancing Work-at-Height Safety**

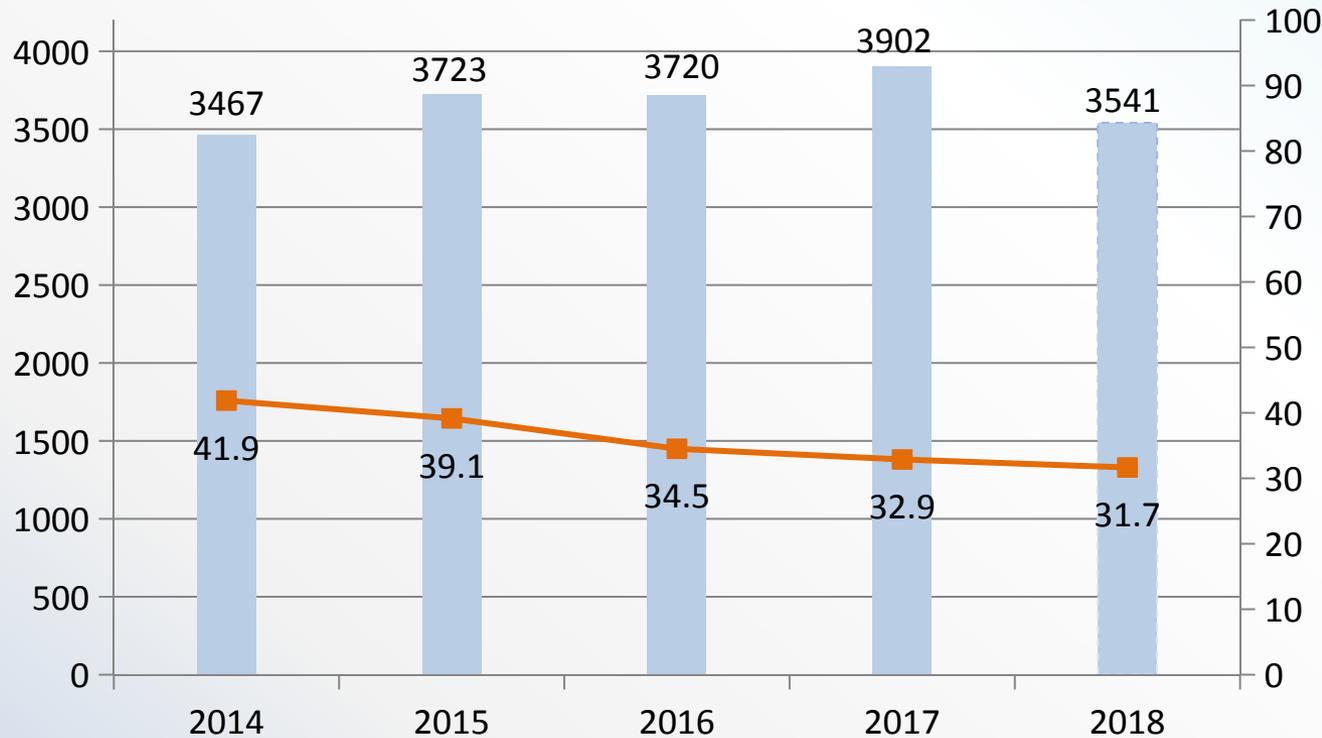
**Mr Kamen LAW**  
**Deputy Chief Occupational Safety Officer**  
**Labour Department**  
**20 May 2019**



# Industrial Accidents of Construction Industry 2014 to 2018

No. of Industrial Accidents

Accident Rate per  
1 000 Workers



**The accident rate per  
1 000 workers of the  
construction industry  
in 2018 was 31.7,  
lower than 41.9 in  
2014 by 24%.**

Accident Rate

 **24%**

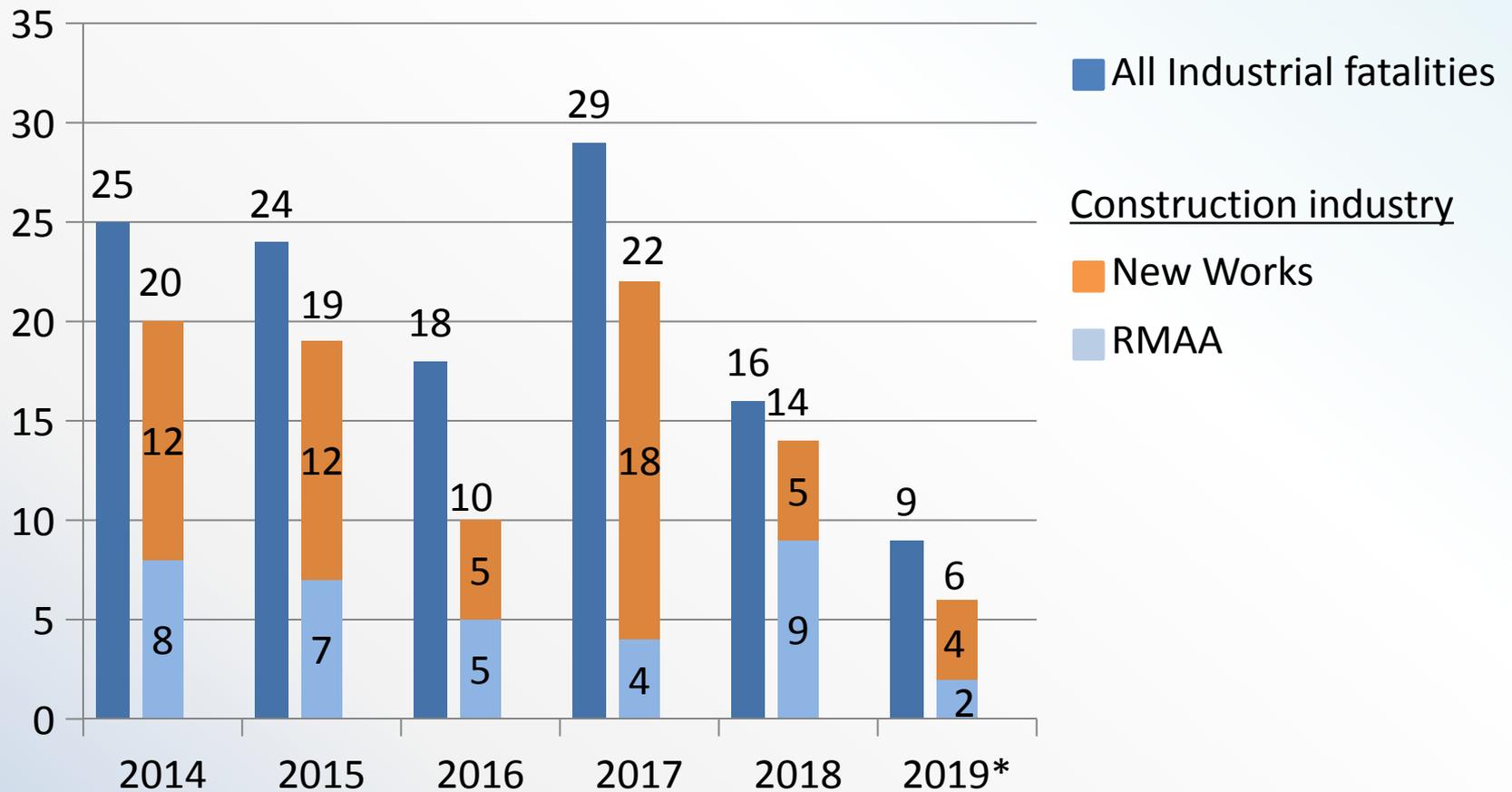
■ No. of Industrial Accidents of Construction Industry

—■ Accident Rate per 1 000 Workers



# Industrial Fatalities 2014 – 2019\*

No. of Industrial Fatalities



\* Provisional figures as at 9 May 2019



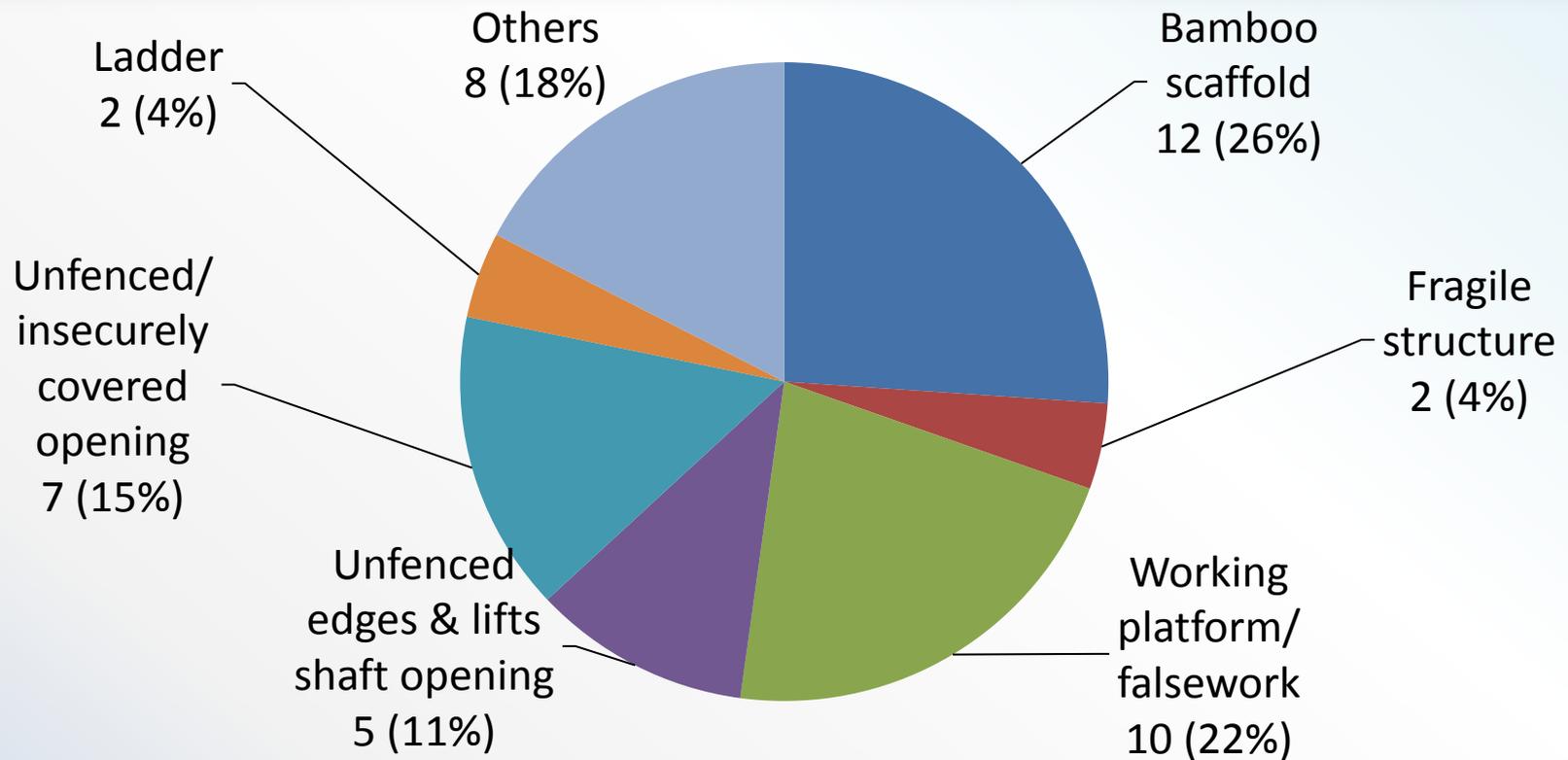
# Construction Industrial Fatalities

## 2014 – 2019\*

Type of Accident	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	Total
Fall of person from height	7	9	7	9	11	3	46 (51%)
Struck by falling object	5	3	0	1	0	1	10 (11%)
Contact with electricity or electric discharge	2	3	2	0	1	0	8 (9%)
Trapped in or between objects	2	1	0	3	1	0	7 (8%)
Striking against or struck by moving object	2	1	1	3	0	0	7 (8%)
Others	2	2	0	6	1	2	13 (13%)
Total	20	19	10	22	14	6	91 (100%)



# Construction Industry Fall-from-Height Fatalities - by Place of Fall 2014 – 2019\*



**Total no. of construction fatalities = 91**  
**Total no. of construction fatalities (fall from height)=46**  
**(about 51% among construction fatalities)**



# Enforcement Figures 2018

- LD has launched special enforcement operations through the year targeting work-at-height safety, with particular attention paid to unsafe erection, dismantling and use of truss-out bamboo scaffolds and improper use of ladders for work-above-ground work, and taken immediate enforcement actions, including issuance of suspension notices (SNs)/improvement notices (INs) and taking out prosecutions when breaches of work safety legislation were detected.
- **6 Special enforcement operations** were conducted in the construction industry in 2018
  - 7 689 inspections
  - 579 SNs/INs
  - 350 prosecutions
- Among these, the following figures are related to work at height
  - 352 SNs/INs
  - 188 prosecutions

# New / On-going Initiatives

- Conduct in-depth surprise inspections targeting work sites with high risk processes or poor safety performance, to unearth any system safety problems and deficiencies of the contractors' safety management systems and press for **IMPROVEMENT**
- Monitor the performance of safety practitioners to ensure they shall properly and fully discharge their statutory duties
- Step up participation in site safety management committee meetings of public works projects, with a view to devising more focused inspection strategies
- Increase penalties of OSH legislation to strengthen deterrent effect



# The OSH Complaint Channels

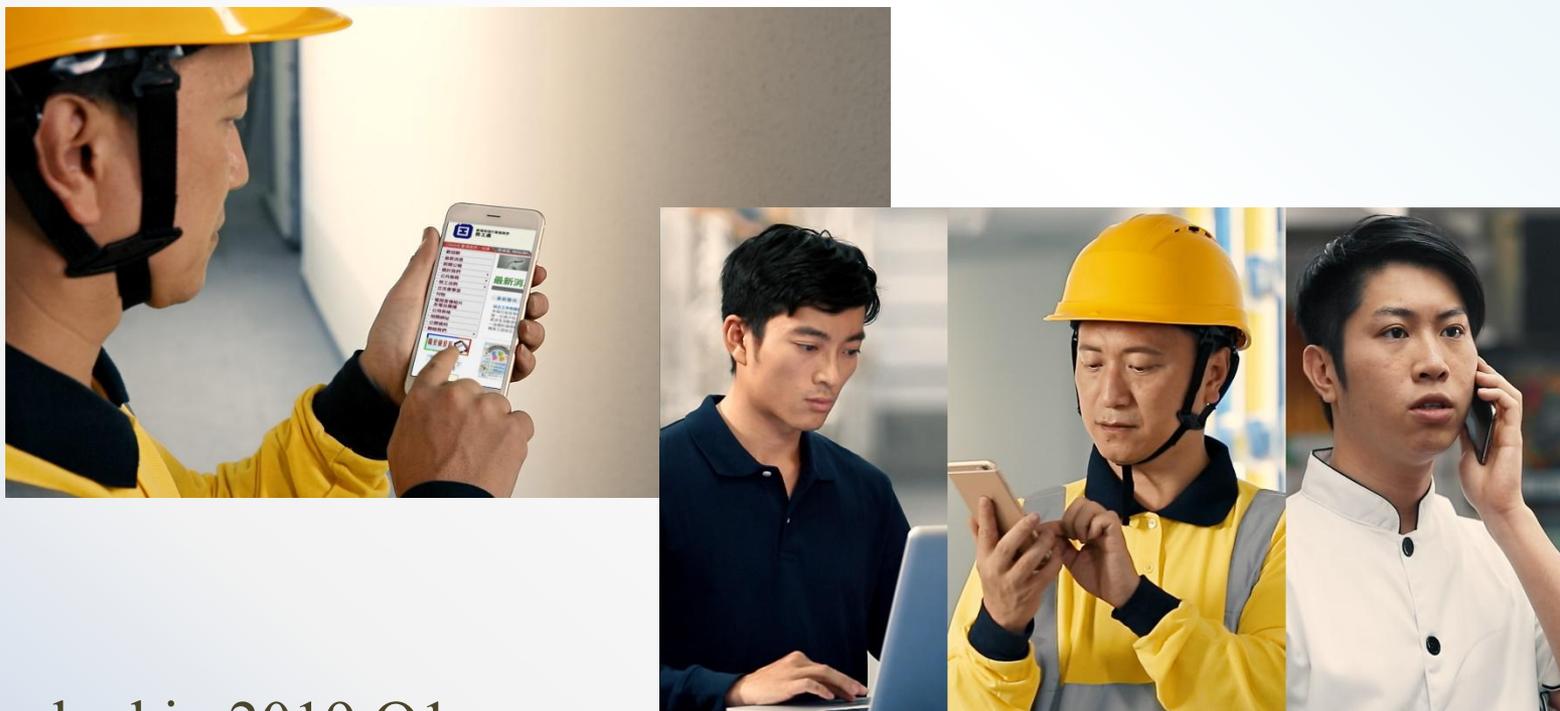
- Launched an Online OSH complaint platform in March 2019
- Aimed to facilitate employees and members of the public to report to LD unsafe operations and environment at workplaces so that the LD can take prompt actions to prevent accidents
- Easy to use through mobile devices like smart phones and tablets
- Can upload photos, videos and voice records
- Through the LD homepage ([www.labour.gov.hk](http://www.labour.gov.hk)), hyperlinks (<https://eform.one.gov.hk/form/ld0001/en/>) and QR codes



- Other channels e.g. email ([enquiry@labour.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@labour.gov.hk)), the LD's OSH complaint hotline (2542 2172) or 1823.
- All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence

# Announcements in the Public Interest

## “Reporting on Unsafe Practices and Working Conditions” TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interests



- Launched in 2019 Q1

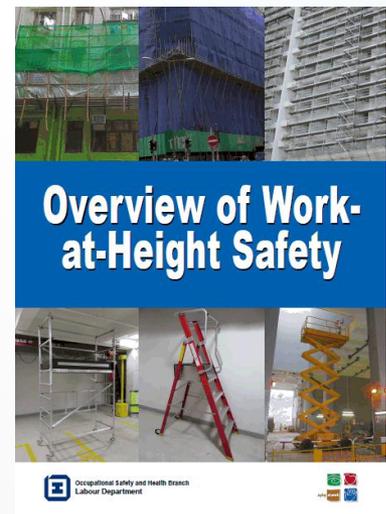
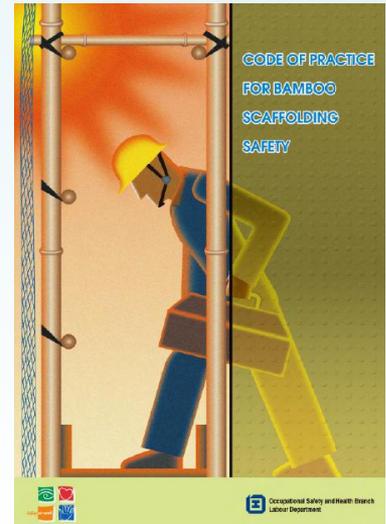


# Announcements in the Public Interest



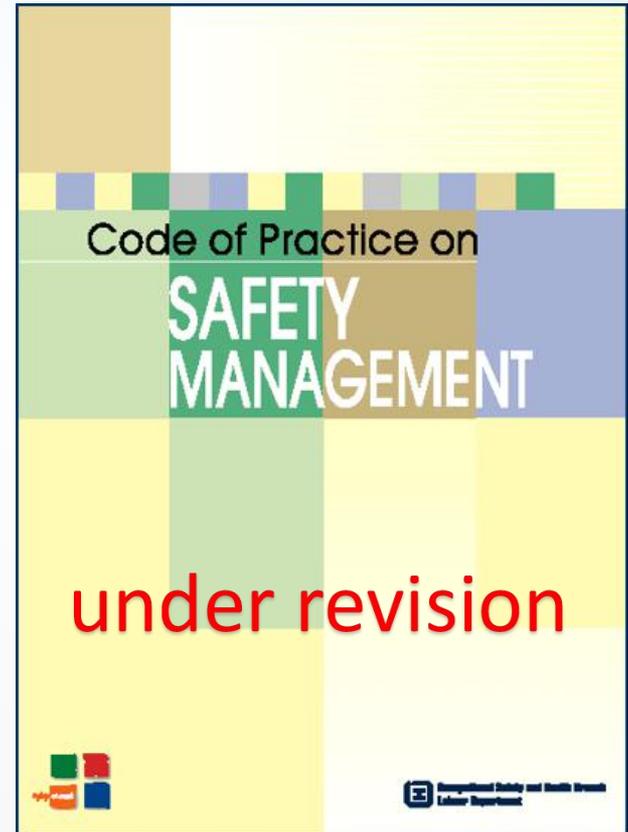
# Promote Safe Working Practice

- Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety **revised** in September 2017
- Overview of Work-at-Height Safety **newly issued** in March 2018



# Promote Safe Working Practice

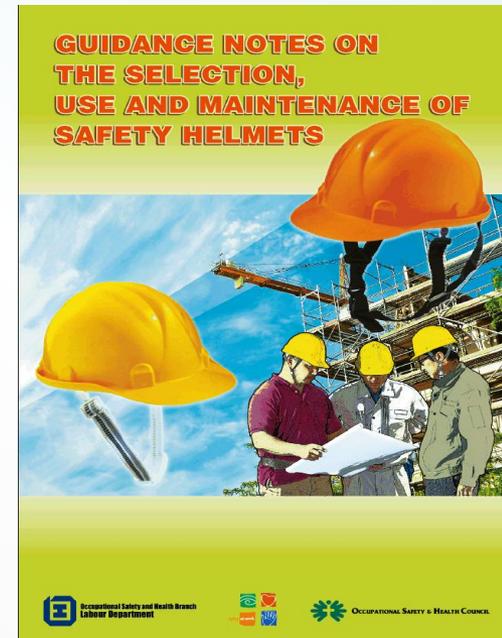
- Code of Practice for Safety Management **under revision**



# Promote Safe Working Practice

## Guidance Notes on the Selection, Use and Maintenance of Safety Helmets (“GN”)

- Published the revised **GN in June 2018** – chin strap as an integral part of a suitable safety helmet
- Carry out **enforcement action** to reduce workers’ risk of head injury in case of fall



# Sponsorship Scheme

## Enhanced light-duty working platform sponsorship scheme

- Enhanced light-duty platform to facilitate work above ground in restrictive area
- Sponsorship
  - Step platform (梯台): \$ 900
  - Hop-up platform (功夫檯): \$ 800
- Launched in September 2017



# Announcements in the Public Interest

## “Work-at-height Safety (Harnesses and safety helmets with chin straps)” TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interests



- Launched in 2018 Q1



# Announcements in the Public Interest



# Work Safety Alert (Animation)

- Lively animation instead of the text-only Work Safety Alert
- Animation videos on work-at-height safety :
  - **Dismantling of Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds**
  - **Work at Height Safety**
  - **Fall through a Floor Opening**
  - **Fall from a Wooden Ladder**
- Launched in April 2018
- By early May 2019, 4 animation videos on work-at-height safety had been uploaded to LD's website and widely disseminated through different channels.



# Work Safety Alert (Animation) – Fall through a Floor Opening



# Education and Training

- **Revamp of “Green Card” course (Mandatory Basic Safety Training Courses (Construction Work))**
  - Launched in March 2018
- **A concise Safety Supervisor Training Course**
  - With 22 hours duration
  - Provide basic safety supervisory skills to persons with site supervision experience



# Systemic Safety Alert

- This Systemic Safety Alert was issued to relevant stakeholders, RSOs and RSAs in Dec 2018
- To remind them of the systemic safety problems and safety precautions for prevention of fall from height through floor openings on construction sites
- To urge them to provide adequate and appropriate safety advice to their employers/ clients.



Occupational Safety and Health Branch  
Labour Department



## Systemic Safety Alert Fall from Height through Floor Openings

### Major systemic safety problems

Floor openings are commonly found on construction sites and persons falling through these openings may sustain serious or even fatal injuries. Most accidents related to falling through floor openings were attributable to slack on-site control over protection of these openings and absence of a safe system of work, leading to the failure to ensure that adequate measures have been taken to prevent any persons from falling through the ineffectively protected openings. Major systemic safety deficiencies include:

- failure to conduct task-specific risk assessments and to formulate appropriate and adequate risk control measures;
- failure to implement an effective proactive inspection programme;
- slack control and monitoring to ensure that the risk control measures stay effective; and
- inadequate hazard communication through safety instruction, training and supervision.

### Accident prevention measures<sup>1</sup>

Registered Safety Officers (RSOs) should advise their employers/clients to:

- i) appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments regarding the access to or work over/near floor openings to identify any foreseeable fall hazards in the workplaces and devise all necessary safety precautions/procedures to eliminate the hazards;

<sup>1</sup> For the details of fall prevention measures, please refer to the "Overview of Work-at-Height Safety" issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Branch of the Labour Department.



# Safety Practitioners (RSOs & RSAs)

- Safety practitioners have their statutory duties to advise their employers/clients to fulfill their safety responsibilities and render the necessary assistance
- Safety practitioners should apply the safety management principles when discharging their statutory duties in providing advice to their employers/clients on the preventive measures
- Safety practitioners should take proactive steps to ensure that their employers/clients were fully aware of the potential adverse implications and consequences of refusing to accept or neglecting their advice



# Registration of Safety Practitioners

- Safety practitioners play an important role in ensuring the safety and health of the workers/employees at work
- According to the relevant safety regulations, the Commissioner shall not register a person as RSO or RSA unless he is satisfied that, in respect of the registration sought, the person is –
  - a) **eligible** to be so registered;
  - b) **competent** to be so registered ; and
  - c) **fit and proper** to be so registered.





# **Safety in Numbers**

## **Be One of Us**

