



Labour Department (Headquarters)

勞工處（總處）

Your reference 來函編號：

Our reference 本處檔案編號： (117) in LD OD/1-55/77 Pt.3

Tel. number 電話號碼： 2852 4176

Fax number 傳真機號碼： 2157 9250

9 April 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Housekeeping and Fire Safety at Construction Sites

The Labour Department has grave concern over the fire safety at construction sites. In light of the recent changes in fire risks at construction sites that have caused serious injuries and fatalities of workers, we are writing to remind you of the importance of effective on-site measures to ensure good housekeeping and adequate fire precautionary measures with the aim of reducing the possibility of fire outbreaks at construction sites.

2. Good housekeeping, a high level of site tidiness, and the implementation of adequate fire precautionary measures are not only to ensure the occupational safety of workers, but also to prevent fires on construction sites. The relevant safety measures should include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (i) Smoking should be prohibited throughout the entire construction site;
- (ii) Accumulations of rubbish, waste paper or other materials that may catch fire should be removed from places of work, such as flat roofs, scaffolds, working platforms and roofs on a daily basis;
- (iii) If daily removal is impractical, suitable metal containers with metal covers should be provided for temporary storage until disposal;
- (iv) Flammable substances and materials should be kept to a minimum on site and properly stored in metal containers with self-closing metal covers or in suitable rooms;
- (v) Materials that may easily catch fire should be kept away from sources of heat, e.g. hot work (electric arc welding, flame cutting and abrasive cutting/grinding), electrical installations and apparatus, etc.;
- (vi) Suitable and sufficient fire-fighting equipment should be provided and maintained properly. Before the commencement of hot work, suitable fire extinguisher(s) should be readily accessible for use;

- (vii) All means of escape leading out of the construction site should be maintained in a safe condition and kept free from obstruction at all times; and
- (viii) Fire emergency response plans should be devised and implemented. Fire drills should be conducted regularly to ensure workers respond promptly and evacuate from the place of work to a safe location as soon as possible.

3. Other than taking the above measures, you shall provide adequate information, instruction and training about the fire safety to the workers. Appropriate supervision shall also be exercised to ensure all these measures are properly implemented. Furthermore, a safety management system should be developed, implemented and maintained at the site to ensure that the occupational safety and health risks are properly controlled.

4. You are duly reminded that, under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) and the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (Cap. 59), employers and contractors shall have the general duties to ensure the safety and health of employees, in particular the provision and maintenance of a working environment that is, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health. Any employer and contractor who failed to observe occupational safety and health legislation shall be liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for two years.

5. Should you have any questions on the letter, you can contact Mr. JABBAR Aziz, Senior Divisional Occupational Safety Officer (Operations Division) (Headquarters)1, at 2852 3767.

Yours faithfully,



(YUEN Tsz-lok Murphy)
for Commissioner for Labour

*c.c. Development Bureau
Buildings Department
Housing Bureau
Housing Department
Fire Services Department*