

Latest Occupational Safety and Health (“OSH”) Information (May 2024)

1) Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety

LD issued the revised Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety on 19 April 2024. The major amendments include the enhancement of technical requirements for the bracing, putlog and access and egress of bamboo scaffolds; the prohibition to unauthorised alteration of bamboo scaffolds including putlog; and further specifying the requirement of supervising work of competent persons to the bamboo scaffolders who perform erection, substantial addition, alteration or dismantling of bamboo scaffolds, and inspection prior to inclement weather. The revised Code of Practice requires all trained workers who perform erection, substantial addition, alteration or dismantling of truss-out bamboo scaffolds should hold a valid certificate of 'Advanced Level Truss-out Scaffolder Safety Training' or 'Intermediate Level Truss-out Scaffolder Safety Training' issued by the Construction Industry Council before performing specified work. There will be a grace period of six months on the effective date of the revised Code of Practice. It will take effect on 19 October 2024.

The revised Code of Practice on Bamboo Scaffolding Safety can be downloaded from the LD's website

(<https://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/B/Bamboo.pdf>).

2) OSH mobile application

The “OSH 2.0” mobile application aims to provide the latest occupational safety and health information. Please scan below QR code to download the application.



The newly designed “OSH 2.0” mobile application combines an enhanced user interface with various new features including work safety alert (text and animation), online OSH complaint form, OSH training, systemic safety alert, catering safety animation and important announcement.

3) Commencement of the remaining 4 elements of safety management system of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation (“Regulation”) and revision of the approved form for the purposes of section 18 of the Regulation (Form 3)

The Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation (Commencement) Notice 2024 was published in the Gazette on 23 February 2024. The remaining four elements of the safety management system, namely “Job-Hazards Analysis”, “Safety and Health Awareness”, “Accident Control and Hazard Elimination” and “Occupational Health Assurance Programme” and the revised Form 3 came into operation on 29 April 2024. There will be a grace period of 6 months after the commencement date to allow sufficient time for the relevant industrial undertakings to make necessary preparations.

4) Code of Practice on Safety Management

LD issued the revised Code of Practice on Safety Management on 23 February 2024. The major amendments include enhancing the requirements for conducting safety audit and review, adding the requirements for notification of safety audit and submission of safety audit

report, adding the assessment form on safety management system, so as to provide more practical guidelines for the duty holders in complying with the requirements of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation.

The revised Code of Practice on Safety Management can be downloaded from the LD's website

(<https://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/os/manage.pdf>).

5) Raising Penalties

The Occupational Safety and Occupational Health Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2023 took effect upon gazettal on 28 April 2023 to increase overall the maximum penalties for OSH legislation, including pitching the maximum fines and imprisonment terms for extremely serious OSH offence at \$10 million and two years respectively so as to enhance their deterrent effect, prompting the relevant duty holder to pay more attention to the precautionary measures for protection of employees' OSH.

6) New Online Enrolment System for Occupational Safety and Health Training Courses

The Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre provides free training courses related to OSH legislation for personnel in public and private sectors. Employers who wish to arrange for their employees to attend the courses can log in to the application website (www.oshtc.labour.gov.hk/wpas/?lang=en) to learn about the course contents and to sign up for the courses. Interested employees can also enrol on the courses through the abovementioned channel on their own.

The Programme Booklet with enclosed application form can be downloaded from the following hyperlink (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/osh/form.htm).

7) Work Safety Alert (Text Version)

LD is highly concerned about the fatal and serious accidents involving high-risk processes. LD issues Work Safety Alerts (“WSAs”) to the relevant industries as soon as possible after each fatal or serious accident to prevent recurrence of similar accidents. For viewing the recently issued text version of WSAs, please browse the website of LD (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/work_safety_alert_2024.htm).

8) Work Safety Alert (Animation) (Versions in Chinese, English and English with subtitles in different languages of diverse races)

To enhance the effectiveness of our publicity and promotion efforts, LD has been producing WSAs in the form of animation videos to enable the industry to better comprehend how such accidents happened and the necessary preventive measures to prevent their recurrence. Up to April of 2024, 26 animation videos of different themes such as Struck to Death by a Fallen Metal I-beam and Trapped by Elevating Work Platform were produced. In addition, with a view to enhancing the OSH awareness of workers of diverse races, LD would continue to translate the subtitles of all animation videos of English version into different languages of diverse races (including Hindi, Nepali, Tagalog and Urdu). Currently, 19 animation videos had been inserted with subtitles in different languages of diverse races. To help LD disseminate OSH information to employers and employees of various industries, please feel free to broadcast these animation videos on venues under your charge where appropriate. The most updated WSAs (Animation) have been uploaded to LD website and broadcasted through various

channels

(www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/work_safety_alert_video.htm).

9) TV and Radio Announcements

LD produced a number of TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest (API) to promote work safety. You may browse or listen to the APIs through the hyperlink provided (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/tv/index.htm).

10) Online OSH complaint platform

LD launched an online OSH complaint platform (“online platform”). For those unsafe operations and environments at workplaces, you can report to LD by using online forms accessible to mobile electronic devices such as smart phones, tablets or laptops, or accessing the online platform through the LD homepage (www.labour.gov.hk). You may also report OSH complaints to LD through email (enquiry@labour.gov.hk), LD's OSH complaint hotline at 2542 2172 or “1823”. All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Occupational Safety and Health Branch

Labour Department

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