

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Industry Council Publishes **“Safety Alert No. 003/13 on Avoid Using Ladders for Working at** **Height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works”**

Hong Kong • 30 August 2013 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) today released a new publication entitled “*Safety Alert No. 003/13 on Avoid Using Ladders for Working at Height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works*” (Safety Alert). This Safety Alert is aimed at highlighting common hazardous conditions of using ladders for the attention of employers, contractors and workers. It also appeals to them for using suitable and safe working platforms instead of ladders for working at height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works.

Introduction

In view of the high toll of accidents when using ladders for working at height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition (RMAA) works in the past and to enhance the site safety for RMAA works, the Task Force on Work Safety of RMAA Sites of the CIC’s Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) has prepared the Safety Alert to remind employers, contractors and workers the potential hazards involved with using ladders at height for RMAA works.

Common hazardous conditions of using ladders include using a ladder for work of long duration or of complicated nature, not placing it on level ground, working with both hands or over-reaching from the ladder, working near doors or movable objects, and performing work that imposes a side loading such as side-on drilling into walls. Moving, or ‘walking’, a trestle ladder while straddling it should be prohibited.

Publication

Mr. CHEUNG Hau-wai, Chairman of the Com-CSS said, “Using ladders at height for RMAA works is prone to accidents which often result in serious injuries. With an increasing amount of RMAA works now being undertaken, the CIC has released this Safety Alert to remind employers, contractors as well as workers to avoid using ladders

for working at height in RMAA works as far as practicable.”

Mr. LI Chi-leung, Chairman of the Task Force on Work Safety of Repair, Maintenance, Alterations and Additions (RMAA) Sites added that suitable and safe working platforms should be used instead of ladders for working at height in RMAA works.

The Safety Alert is available for download on the CIC’s website www.hkcic.org.

About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed on 1 February 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance Cap. 587. The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry’s needs and aspirations to Government, provide training for construction workforce and serve as a communication channel for Government to solicit advice on all construction-related matters.

To learn more about the CIC, please visit website www.hkcic.org for further details.

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(The Safety Alert can be found on P.3 to P.4)



Using ladders for working at height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition (RMAA) Works is prone to accidents which often result in casualties. Common hazardous conditions of using ladders include the following -

- For work of complicated nature or long duration.
- Ladder not placed on level ground.
- For work with both hands engaged, and over-reaching from the ladder.
- For work that imposes a side loading such as side-on drilling through walls.
- For work near doors or movable objects.

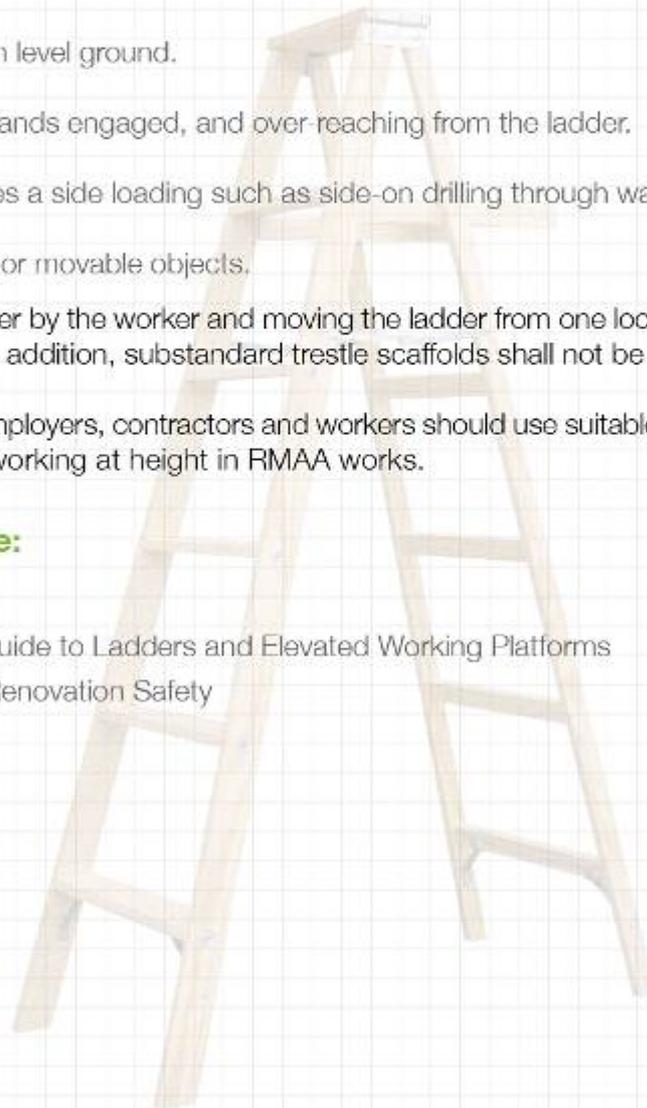
Straddling a trestle ladder by the worker and moving the ladder from one location to another with his feet should be prohibited. In addition, substandard trestle scaffolds shall not be used.

As far as practicable, employers, contractors and workers should use suitable and safe working platforms instead of ladders for working at height in RMAA works.

Relevant reference:

Labour Department

- Safety at Work - A Guide to Ladders and Elevated Working Platforms
- Guidance Notes to Renovation Safety



Disclaimer

Whilst reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, the CIC nevertheless would encourage readers to seek appropriate independent advice from their professional advisers where possible and readers should not treat or rely on this publication as a substitute for such professional advice for taking any relevant actions.

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CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

Avoid Using Ladders for Working at Height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works

Safety Alert No. 003/13

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Ladder not placed on level ground.



For work with both hands engaged, and over-reaching from the ladder.



Should use suitable and safe working platforms as far as practicable instead of ladders for working at height in RMAA works.



For work that imposes a side loading such as side-on drilling through walls.



The substandard trestle scaffold shall not be used.



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