

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A New Publication of the Construction Industry Council
“Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works”

Hong Kong • 22 July 2010 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) today announced that a new guideline entitled “*Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works: Volume 1 – During Construction Stage and Before Handing Over to Lift Installation Contractor*” is being published for industry to reference and where possible adopt and to be read in conjunction with all subsisting legislation and code of practice already in place.

Introduction

There are many activities that occur within or near lift shafts during construction, lift installation, and operation and maintenance stages. Accidents which occur in lift shafts could be catastrophic causing serious injuries or even loss of lives and damage to properties. “In consideration of the significant implications of working safely in lift shafts, a Task Force has been specifically established under the Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) of the CIC,” says Mr LEE Shing-see, Chairman of the CIC. The Task Force comprises construction experts and safety specialists from the industry and is given the ambit to identify measures for the enhancement of working safely within or near lift shafts.

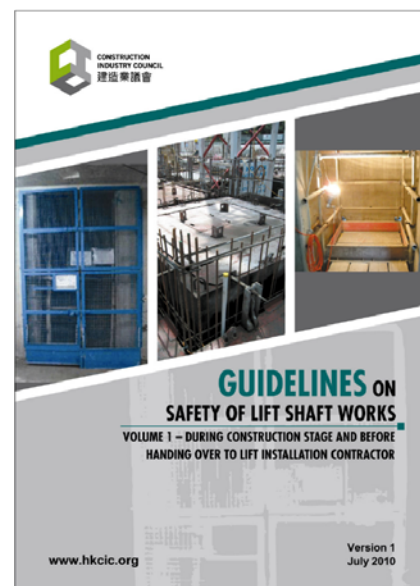
Working Safely Within or Near Lift Shafts

The Task Force has thoroughly reviewed the work cycle involving the installation of lifts within a construction project. The Task Force identified that the whole process can generally be divided into three stages. Stage 1 involves the construction of lift shaft before handing over to the lift installation contractor. Stage 2 refers to the lift installation stage until the issue of the Occupation Permit (OP) and handing over to the developer. Stage 3 marks the operation and maintenance stage throughout the occupation period.

At each stage of works, the lift shafts and the lift installation might be taken over and managed by different parties. According to the nature and scope of works, various types of safety hazards might be associated with the works to be carried out in the lift shafts. Mr CHEUNG Hau-wai, Chairman of the Com-CSS, says, “In this connection, the Task Force aims to develop designated sets of safety precautionary measures for each stage of lift shaft works so as to protect the lives of workers, lift operators, users and associated properties, and publish them as guidelines.”

Publication of Guidelines

In July 2010, the CIC published the Guidelines for Stage 1 of lift shaft works (the Guidelines), namely the “*Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works, Volume 1 – During Construction Stage and Before Handing Over to Lift Installation Contractor*”. The Guidelines set out the good practices recommended by the CIC for enhancing occupational safety of site personnel working inside or near lift shafts during the construction stage and before handing over to the lift installation contractor. The Guidelines encourage industry practitioners to develop a safe system of work under the principles of risk elimination, hazard reduction, accident prevention and protection of workers.



Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works:
Volume 1 – During Construction Stage and
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Contractor

It is hoped that the Guidelines could stimulate the whole construction industry to adopt safe practices for lift shaft works. Ms Ada FUNG, Chairperson of the Task Force, says, “We call upon the whole construction industry in Hong Kong to safeguard the health and safety of site personnel, and all industry practitioners to take a proactive stance in adopting the recommendations stipulated in the Guidelines to provide a safe working environment for lift shaft works.”

About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was established in accordance with the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Chapter 587 of the Laws of Hong Kong) in 2007.

To pursue initiatives for improving the local construction industry, the CIC has established committees in accordance with Section 15 of the CIC Ordinance. The Committee on Construction Site Safety, being one of those committees formed under the CIC, was established to review and monitor site safety performance of the construction industry; to identify and recommend measures for improving safety performance; and to promote adoption of such measures by the industry.

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