

**Occupational Safety and Health (Headquarters)
Labour Department**

勞工處職業安全及健康（總部）

Your reference 來函編號：

Our reference 本處檔案編號： LD CR 1/814

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23 May 2012

Ms Alice LEUNG
Clerk to the Panel on Manpower
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LEUNG,

Reply to Panel on Manpower on follow-up actions required

The Panel on Manpower discussed the review of occupational diseases in Hong Kong and construction safety at the meetings on 12 July and 17 November 2011 respectively. Members of the Panel requested the Administration to provide information on suspected cases of workers suffering heat stroke at work, the number of accidents involving workers undertaking lift works, and the level of fines imposed by the Court under work-at-height safety regulations.

Suspected cases of workers suffering heat stroke at work

During the summer of 2011, the Labour Department (LD) received 26 notifications from employers on work injury cases that were suspected to be related to heat stroke. In 22 out of these 26 cases, the employers had admitted liability and the employees concerned received relevant compensation. LD is following up the remaining four cases. The breakdown of these 26 cases by occupation is: eight cases involved cleansing workers, four professional drivers and one construction site worker. Employees of the remaining 13 cases were

engaged in jobs of different nature such as gardening, maintenance and goods handling. In general, these workers were involved in outdoor manual work, or driving non-air-conditioned vehicles under very hot weather. Most of them had symptoms such as dizziness, headache and vomiting.

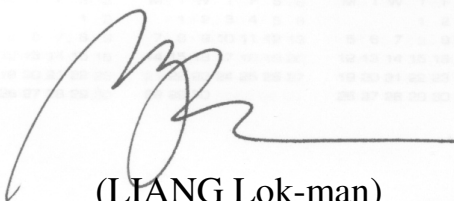
Number of accidents involving workers undertaking lift works

In 2011, there were 87 industrial accidents involving workers undertaking lift works. A breakdown by types of accident involved is at Annex 1.

The average and highest fines imposed by the Court under work-at-height safety regulations

In 2010 and 2011, there were 570 and 612 summonses whose parties concerned were convicted in Court for breaches of work-at-height safety legislation. Relevant information on the average and highest fines are at Annex 2.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LIANG Lok-man', written over a faint grid background.

(LIANG Lok-man)
for Commissioner for Labour

**Industrial Accidents arising from Lift & Escalator
Installation and Maintenance Works in 2011**

Type of accident	Installation	Maintenance
Trapped in or between objects	0	3
Injured whilst lifting or carrying	2	9
Slip, trip or fall on same level	1	25
Fall of person from height	0	6
Striking against fixed or stationary object	6	14
Striking against or struck by moving object	0	11
Stepping on object	0	0
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	0	0
Contact with electricity or electric discharge	0	0
Trapped by collapsing or overturning object	0	0
Struck by falling object	0	0
Struck by moving vehicle	0	0
Contact with moving machinery or object being machined	0	3
Drowning	0	0
Exposure to fire	0	1
Exposure to explosion	0	1
Injured by hand tool	2	3
Injured by fall of ground	0	0
Asphyxiation	0	0
Contact with hot surface or substance	0	0
Injured by animal	0	0
Injured in workplace violence	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	11	76

Note: Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance.

**Number of summonses and level of fines imposed on parties convicted
in Court for breaches of work-at-height safety legislation**

Related legislation	Number of summonses convicted		Average fines (\$)		Highest fines (\$)	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations	509	567	11,070	10,347	80,000	56,000
General Duties Provisions of Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance and Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance	61	45	22,329	13,690	200,000	50,000