

**LETTERHEAD OF EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BUREAU**

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11 December 1998

Clerk to Subcommittee  
LegCo Secretariat  
Legislative Council  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn: Mrs Sharon Tong)

Dear Mrs Tong,

**Subcommittee on regulations  
relating to occupational safety and health  
Meeting on 14 December 1998**

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 1998. I wish to provide the following information relating to the Construction Sites (Safety) (Amendment) Regulation 1998 as requested in the Appendix to your letter.

*Number of industrial accidents in which boatswain's chairs were used for painting the external hulls of ships.*

According to the Marine Department, which has overall responsibility for safety issues relating to work over water, there was no fatal case arising from work carried out from boatswain's chairs for the period since 1992. As for non-fatal injuries, there was no breakdown on cases involving the use of boatswain's chairs. The Department has no information on accidents happened in 1992 and before since accident records are not kept in the present computer system.

*Information on the two-day course on suspended working platform organised by the Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA)*

The relevant course run by CITA is known as “Certification Course with Imbedded Certification Test for Person Working on Endless Winder Mode Temporary Suspended Working Platform (Gondola)”. It is a two-day course consisting of three parts: theoretical and practical training, written test and practical test. Candidates must take all three parts of the course within the specified period. The total duration is 14 hours, with 12 hours on training and two hours for written and practical tests. Candidates must be 18 years of age or over and preference will be given to those who are required to perform duties on temporary installation of suspended working platform in the construction industry, with recommendation from employers.

The course fee is \$800 per person (including lecture and examination fees) for weekday courses and \$1,000 for weekend and Sunday courses. Tailor-made courses are also available if the number of participants is eight or more.

Candidates who have completed the theoretical and practical training are eligible to take the written and practical tests. On successful completion of the tests, they will be awarded a certificate which will be valid for five years from the date of issue. Upon expiry of the certificate, the holders will be required to attend refresher course and to take a test before the certificate will be revalidated. As at the end of October 1998, 2,572 certificates have been issued.

Yours sincerely,

(Herman Cho)

for Secretary for Education and Manpower

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