

For information on  
20 December 2007

## **Legislative Council Panel on Manpower**

### **Hong Kong's Occupational Safety Performance in the First Half of 2007**

#### **PURPOSE**

This paper briefs Members on Hong Kong's occupational safety performance in the first half of 2007.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Labour Department (LD) is committed to protecting the safety and health of people at work by ensuring that risks in workplaces are properly managed and controlled through legislation, law enforcement, education, training and publicity.

3. Through the concerted efforts of all parties concerned, including employers, employees, contractors, safety practitioners and the Government, Hong Kong's safety performance has been improving since 1998, with both the number and the rate of occupational accidents falling steadily.

#### **RECENT STATISTICS**

##### ***Occupational Injuries***

4. The number of occupational injuries in all workplaces in the first half of 2007 stood at 21 336, representing a decrease of 3.9% over the same period in 2006, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees dropped to 16.5, down by 6.0%. (Table 1)

**Table 1: Occupational Injuries in All Workplaces**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 1st half	2007 1st half (Compared with 2006 1 <sup>st</sup> half)
<b>Fatal cases</b>	210	171	187	187	187	93	80 (-14.0%)
<b>Non-fatal cases</b>	46 813	41 851	43 838	44 080	46 750	22 102	21 256 (-3.8%)
<b>Total</b>	47 023	42 022	44 025	44 267	46 937	22 195	21 336 (-3.9%)
<b>Injury rate/ 1 000 employees</b>	19.2	17.7	18.1	17.8	18.4	17.5	16.5 (-6.0%)

5. There were improvements in all major economic sectors, including the construction industry, catering industry and the non-industrial sectors. A detailed breakdown of the occupational injuries in all workplaces in the first half of 2007 by major economic activities is at **Annex 1**.

*Industrial accidents*

6. The number of industrial accidents for all industrial sectors in the first half of 2007 stood at 7 674, representing a decrease of 5.4% over the same period of 2006. During the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers fell from 29.5 in 2006 to 28.0 in 2007, down by 5.3%. (**Table 2**)

**Table 2: Industrial Accidents in All Sectors**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 1 <sup>st</sup> half	2007 1 <sup>st</sup> half (Compared with 2006 1 <sup>st</sup> half)
<b>Fatal cases</b>	25	28	24	29	26	11	13 (+18.2%)
<b>Non-fatal cases</b>	22 428	17 221	17 509	16 888	17 260	8 099	7 661 (-5.4%)
<b>Total</b>	22 453	17 249	17 533	16 917	17 286	8 110	7 674 (-5.4%)
<b>Accident rate/ 1 000 workers</b>	37.4	31.3	31.5	30.6	31.5	29.5	28.0 (-5.3%)

7. There were 13 industrial fatalities in the first half of 2007, representing an 18.2% increase over the same period of 2006. Nine of them occurred on construction sites, 2 in the manufacturing industry and 2 in the transport and related services, storage and other repairing services. Their causes were fall of person from height (7 cases), striking against or struck by moving object (3 cases), trapped in or between objects (1 case), contact with electricity or electric discharge (1 case) and struck by falling object (1 case).

### *Accidents in the Construction Industry*

8. The high-risk construction industry recorded 1 427 industrial accidents in the first half of 2007 with an accident rate at 56.3 per 1 000 workers, a drop of 8.3% in the figure and of 3.1% in the accident rate. The number of industrial fatalities rose in the same period from 6 in 2006 to 9 in 2007. (Table 3)

**Table 3: Industrial Accidents in Construction Industry**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 1 <sup>st</sup> half	2007 1 <sup>st</sup> half (Compared with 2006 1 <sup>st</sup> half)
<b>Fatal cases</b>	24	25	17	25	16	6	9 (+50.0%)
<b>Non-fatal cases</b>	6 215	4 342	3 816	3 523	3 384	1 550	1 418 (-8.5%)
<b>Total</b>	6 239	4 367	3 833	3 548	3 400	1 556	1 427 (-8.3%)
<b>Accident rate/ 1 000 workers</b>	85.2	68.1	60.3	59.9	64.3	58.1	56.3 (-3.1%)

9. Of the 9 industrial fatalities which occurred on construction sites, their causes were fall of person from height (6 cases), trapped in or between objects (1 case), contact with electricity or electric discharge (1 case) and struck by falling object (1 case). The most common types of construction accidents are striking against or struck by moving object (289 cases or 20.3%), slip, trip or fall on the same level (240 cases or 16.8%) and injured whilst lifting and carrying (238 cases or 16.7%). A detailed breakdown by type of accident is at **Annex 2**.

### *Accidents in the Catering Industry*

10. The catering industry continued to rank top among all industries in terms of the number of accidents. Nonetheless, the number of industrial accidents had decreased from 4 375 in the first half of 2006 to 4 256 in the same period of 2007, down by 2.7%, whilst the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 44.8 to 42.3, down by 5.7% (**Table 4**). A detailed breakdown of the accidents in the catering industry by type of accident is at **Annex 3**.

**Table 4: Industrial accidents in Catering Industry**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 1 <sup>st</sup> half	2007 1 <sup>st</sup> half (Compared with 2006 1 <sup>st</sup> half)
<b>Fatal cases</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (---)
<b>Non-fatal cases</b>	10 149	8 527	9 410	8 902	9 294	4 375	4 256 (-2.7%)
<b>Total</b>	10 149	8 527	9 410	8 902	9 294	4 375	4 256 (-2.7%)
<b>Accident rate/ 1 000 workers</b>	54.7	49.6	51.5	47.3	47.2	44.8	42.3 (-5.7%)

### **MEASURES TO FURTHER ENHANCE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

11. In the first half of 2007, we planned and implemented a series of measures, including enforcement campaigns, promotional visits and safety seminars to reduce the accident toll.

#### *Enforcement campaigns*

12. In the first half of 2007, we conducted eight enforcement campaigns, focusing on a wide range of safety issues, including the safe operation of vehicles/mobile plant on construction sites, safety in the wholesale and retail trade, catering safety, cargo and container handling safety, construction safety, ladder safety and the safe use of electricity. During these safety campaigns, we took stringent enforcement action, including issuing suspension notices/improvement notices, whenever necessary to ensure compliance with the law.

13. A special inspection campaign targeting at vehicles and mobile plant used on construction site was conducted between January and May 2007 with a view to enhancing the industry's awareness of the striking and trapping hazards related to the use of such vehicles and plant. Safety advice was given to the owners/contractors responsible for these vehicles and plants during the exercise.

14. To address the concern at the beginning of 2007 for work safety of the wholesale and retail trade (in particular supermarkets), we launched between March and April a territory-wide inspection campaign to enhance the safety awareness of employers and employees in the trade. During the period, there were 2 612 inspections of wholesale and retail establishments (48 being supermarkets), with 25 prosecutions initiated and 30 improvement notices issued.

15. In light of two fatal accidents involving the use of ladder and electrical tool respectively in May 2007, a blitz operation on ladder safety and safe use of electricity was launched in June 2007 to regulate the safety performance of the duty holders concerned (including workers). There were strict enforcement actions with a total of 76 prosecutions initiated and 73 improvement notices issued.

### ***Promotion, Publicity and Safety Seminars***

16. In the first half of 2007, we launched, among others, intensive publicity campaigns to arouse the safety awareness of all parties involved in work-at-height and Repair, Maintenance, Alterations and Additions (RMAA) works. These include-

- (a) broadcasting newly created messages and mini-dramas on radios;
- (b) broadcasting "Announcements of Public Interest" on television, radio and RoadShow buses;
- (c) broadcasting short documentaries on KCRC trains;
- (d) displaying posters at escalator crowns of MTR stations;
- (e) staging roving exhibitions in shopping malls;
- (f) organising safety seminars with the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC), related trade associations and workers' unions for frontline workers; and
- (g) publicising the "Casebook of Occupational Fatalities Related to Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolding Works" for reference by workers and members of the public.

### ***SME Sponsorship Scheme for Work-at-height Fall Arresting Equipment for RMAA Work***

17. Working-at-height is one of the high-risk areas of work. The use of fall-arresting equipment could help mitigate such risks. The purchase of safety equipment could bring financial difficulties to small and medium-sized (SME) building contractors. As a means to encourage SME contractors to use fall-arresting equipment, we have since October 2005 joined OSHC in launching a subsidy scheme for the purchase of fall-arresting equipment for working-at-height.

18. Under the Scheme, a subsidy of up to \$3,000 is offered to proprietors or contractors of SMEs to purchase a Transportable Temporary Anchor Device, safety harness, fall arresting device and an independent lifeline. As a prerequisite, all subsidised SMEs must send their employees to attend the related free OSHC safety training courses.

19. A study by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology commissioned by OSHC on the safety of truss-out scaffolds indicated that the use of T-shaped metal brackets could help overcome the difficulties in fixing and removing the expansion anchor bolts at lower positions. To encourage SME contractors to use safety equipment of higher standards, OSHC and LD also decided in October 2006 to increase the subsidy ceiling under the above-mentioned scheme by \$500 to \$3,500 to assist applicants to purchase up to a maximum of five T-shaped metal brackets. This ceiling for subsidy was further increased to \$4,000 in June 2007 to assist applicants to purchase up to a maximum of ten T-shaped metal brackets.

20. Since the launch of the scheme, a total of 322 applications have been approved with about \$1 million of subsidy granted.

### ***SME Sponsorship Scheme for Safe Working in Confined Spaces***

21. OSHC also launched in 2004 a subsidy scheme to enhance work safety in confined spaces, such as manholes, sewage pipes and water tanks. Under the scheme, OSHC offers a maximum grant of \$10,000 for SMEs with financial difficulties in purchasing gas testing equipment. OSHC also offers financial assistance to SMEs for conducting risk assessment. The ceiling of subsidy for this purpose is \$3,000 and each SME could be subsidised up to a maximum of three times within a year. However, an SME is not entitled to obtain subsidies for procuring gas testing equipment and risk assessment service simultaneously. All subsidised SMEs must nominate their employees to attend the related free OSHC training courses.

22. Since the scheme was launched, OSHC has approved 198 applications with about \$1.6 million of subsidy granted.

### **THE WAY FORWARD**

23. LD will continue to keep up its efforts in reducing the work accident toll in partnership with all stakeholders, including OSHC, the Construction Industry Council, trade associations, workers' unions, professional bodies as well as other Government Bureaux/Departments. We will explore new ways to heighten the awareness of both employers and employees of the importance of occupational safety and health, and take positive actions to promote safety at work.

Labour Department  
December 2007

**Occupational Injuries in All Workplaces  
in 1st Half of 2007  
- analysed by Major Economic Activity -**

二零零七年上半年所有工作地點之職業傷亡個案以主要經濟行業分析

Major Economic Activity 主要經濟行業		1st Half of 2006 二零零六年上半年		1st Half of 2007 二零零七年上半年		Change 增減	Percentage Change 增減率
Agriculture and Fishing	漁農業	67		83		16	23.9%
Mining and Quarrying	採礦及採石業	0		0		---	n.a.
Manufacturing	製造業	2 009	(12)	1 939	(12)	-70	-3.5%
Electricity and Gas	電力及燃氣業	21		16		-5	-23.8%
Construction	建造業	1 602	(9)	1 480	(16)	-122	-7.6%
Wholesale & Retail Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	批發、零售、飲食及酒店業	6 874	(14)	6 780	(8)	-94	-1.4%
Transport & Related Services, Storage and Communication	運輸及有關行業、倉庫 及通訊業	2 623	(15)	2 368	(11)	-255	-9.7%
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services (including Import & Export Trade)	金融、保險、地產及商用服 務業（包括進出口貿易業）	2 829	(27)	2 794	(19)	-35	-1.2%
Community, Social & Personal Services	社區、社會及個人服務業	6 159	(16)	5 865	(14)	-294	-4.8%
Activities not adequately defined	未能介定之行業	11		11		---	---
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>總數</b>	<b>22 195</b>	<b>(93)</b>	<b>21 336</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>-859</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>

## Notes:

- Occupational injuries (including industrial accidents) are injury cases arising from work accidents, resulting in death or incapacity for work of over three consecutive days, and reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance. Since 1.1.1998, Labour Department has used the date of occurrence of an injury as the basis for computing work injury statistics instead of the date of reporting in order to reflect more accurately the number of work injuries occurring in the year.
- Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities.
- The above injury figures are recorded as at 28 September 2007.
- Employment Size was based on the *Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics* published by the Census and Statistics Department. Since 2006, the number of employees in Government Sector was provided by Civil Service Bureau.
- "n.a." means not applicable

## 註釋:

- 職業傷亡個案是指根據《僱員補償條例》呈報由工作意外引致死亡或失去工作能力連續3天以上的受傷個案（包括工業意外個案）。由1998年1月1日開始，勞工處採用個案發生日期替代個案呈報日期作為編算工作傷亡統計數據的基礎，以便更準確地反映所述時段內發生的工傷個案。
- 括號內的數字顯示死亡人數。
- 上列傷亡數字為截至2007年9月28日所紀錄的數字。
- 受僱人數資料源自政府統計處發表的《就業及空缺按季統計報告》。由2006年開始，政府部門的僱員數字資料是由公務員事務局提供。
- "n.a." 是指不適用



**Industrial Accidents in Construction Industry  
in 1st Half of 2007  
- analysed by Type of Accident -**

**二零零七年上半年建造業之工業意外個案以意外類別分析**

Type of Accident 意外類別		1st Half of 2006 二零零六年上半年		1st Half of 2007 二零零七年上半年		Change 增減
Trapped in or between objects	受困於物件之內或物件之間	44	(1)	36	(1)	-8
Injured whilst lifting or carrying	提舉或搬運物件時受傷	230		238		8
Slip, trip or fall on same level	滑倒、絆倒或在同一高度跌倒	309		240		-69
Fall of person from height	人體從高處墮下	171	(2)	180	(6)	9
Striking against fixed or stationary object	與固定或不動的物件碰撞	169		150		-19
Striking against or struck by moving object	被移動物件或與移動物件碰撞	292	(1)	289		-3
Stepping on object	踏在物件上	20		14		-6
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	暴露於有害物質中或接觸有害物質	13		8		-5
Contact with electricity or electric discharge	觸電或接觸放出的電流	6		3	(1)	-3
Trapped by collapsing or overturning object	受困於倒塌或翻側的物件	5	(1)	1		-4
Struck by falling object	遭墮下的物件撞擊	48		60	(1)	12
Struck by moving vehicle	遭移動中的車輛撞倒	16		11		-5
Contact with moving machinery or object being machined	觸及開動中的機器或觸及以機器製造中的物件	111		88		-23
Drowning	遇溺	0		0		---
Exposure to fire	火警燒傷	13		4		-9
Exposure to explosion	爆炸受傷	1		2		1
Injured by hand tool	被手工具所傷	85		84		-1
Injured by fall of ground	泥土傾瀉受傷	0		1		1
Asphyxiation	窒息	1	(1)	0		-1
Contact with hot surface or substance	觸及灼熱表面或物質	13		12		-1
Injured by animal	被動物所傷	1		0		-1
Injured in workplace violence	於工作場所暴力事件中受傷	0		0		---
Others	其他類別	8		6		-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>總計</b>	<b>1 556</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>1 427</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>-129</b>

## Notes:

- Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance. Since 1.1.1998, Labour Department has used the date of occurrence of an injury as the basis for computing work injury statistics instead of the date of reporting in order to reflect more accurately the number of work injuries occurring in the year.
- Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities.
- The above accident figures are recorded as at 28 September 2007.

## 註釋:

- 工業意外是指在《工廠及工業經營條例》所界定的工業經營內發生的受傷或死亡意外，而這些意外是因工業活動而引致的。由1998年1月1日開始，勞工處採用個案發生日期替代個案呈報日期作為編算工作傷亡統計數據的基礎，以便更準確地反映所述時段內發生的工傷個案。
- 括號內的數字顯示死亡人數。
- 上列意外數字為截至2007年9月28日所紀錄的數字。

**Industrial Accidents in Catering Industry  
in 1st Half of 2007  
- analysed by Type of Accident -**

**二零零七年上半年飲食業之工業意外個案以意外類別分析**

Type of Accident 意外類別	1st Half of 2006 二零零六年上半年	1st Half of 2007 二零零七年上半年	Change 增減
Trapped in or between objects 受困於物件之內或物件之間	42	30	-12
Injured whilst lifting or carrying 提舉或搬運物件時受傷	541	517	-24
Slip, trip or fall on same level 滑倒、絆倒或在同一高度跌倒	717	627	-90
Fall of person from height 人體從高處墮下	22	19	-3
Striking against fixed or stationary object 與固定或不動的物件碰撞	372	484	112
Striking against or struck by moving object 被移動物件或與移動物件碰撞	348	289	-59
Stepping on object 踏在物件上	5	7	2
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance 暴露於有害物質中或接觸有害物質	38	29	-9
Contact with electricity or electric discharge 觸電或接觸放出的電流	1	2	1
Trapped by collapsing or overturning object 受困於倒塌或翻側的物件	1	0	-1
Struck by falling object 遭墮下的物件撞擊	19	20	1
Struck by moving vehicle 遭移動中的車輛撞倒	22	25	3
Contact with moving machinery or object being machined 觸及開動中的機器或觸及以機器製造中的物件	51	62	11
Drowning 遇溺	0	0	---
Exposure to fire 火警燒傷	8	10	2
Exposure to explosion 爆炸受傷	3	1	-2
Injured by hand tool 被手工具所傷	1 127	1 043	-84
Injured by fall of ground 泥土傾瀉受傷	0	0	---
Asphyxiation 窒息	0	0	---
Contact with hot surface or substance 觸及灼熱表面或物質	1 001	1 035	34
Injured by animal 被動物所傷	42	45	3
Injured in workplace violence 於工作場所暴力事件中受傷	0	0	---
Others 其他類別	15	11	-4
<b>Total</b> 總計	<b>4 375</b>	<b>4 256</b>	<b>-119</b>

## Notes:

- Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance. Since 1.1.1998, Labour Department has used the date of occurrence of an injury as the basis for computing work injury statistics instead of the date of reporting in order to reflect more accurately the number of work injuries occurring in the year.
- Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities.
- The above accident figures are recorded as at 28 September 2007.

## 註釋:

- 工業意外是指在《工廠及工業經營條例》所界定的工業經營內發生的受傷或死亡意外，而這些意外是因工業活動而引致的。由1998年1月1日開始，勞工處採用個案發生日期替代個案呈報日期作為編算工作傷亡統計數據的基礎，以便更準確地反映所述時段內發生的工傷個案。
- 括號內的數字顯示死亡人數。
- 上列意外數字為截至2007年9月28日所紀錄的數字。