



**Labour Department (Headquarters)**

**勞工處(總處)**

Your reference 來函編號: CB4/PAC/R67  
Our reference 本處檔案編號: ( 2 ) in L/M(2) to LD CR/4-35/8  
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12 January 2017

Ms. Angela CHU  
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex,  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Central, Hong Kong.

Dear Ms. CHU,

**Public Accounts Committee**

**Consideration of Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 67**

**Maintenance and safety-related improvements of  
public rental housing flats**

With reference to your letter dated 30 December 2016 addressed to the Commissioner for Labour on the subject issue, please find attached the information at the Annex for your consideration, please.

Yours sincerely,

  
(CHAN Keng-kwong)  
for Commissioner for Labour

c.c. Secretary for Transport and Housing (fax. no. 2523 9187)  
Director of Housing (fax. no. 2761 6700)  
Director of Buildings (fax. no. 2868 3248)  
Director of Fire Services (fax. no. 2368 9744)  
Director of Water Supplies (fax. no. 2802 2537)  
Director of Environmental Protection (fax no. 2891 2512)  
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no. 2147 5239)  
Director of Audit (fax no. 2583 9063)

**Public Accounts Committee**  
**Consideration of Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 67**

**Maintenance and safety-related improvements of  
public rental housing flats**

The Labour Department (LD) is responsible for enforcing the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Asbestos) Regulation (F&IU(Asbestos)R) for the protection of the health of contractors' workers in conducting asbestos work. We have examined all the cases mentioned in the audit report, including those mentioned in paragraphs 4.13 to 4.16 and 4.28 to 4.30, and embarked on follow-up actions to ascertain if the requirements of F&IU(Asbestos)R were observed and the workers concerned properly protected. It was noted that most cases involved work projects done in earlier years, and hence even if the concerned contractors were found to have violated F&IU(Asbestos)R, the bar date of six months for taking prosecutions should already have expired. Nevertheless, LD has taken appropriate follow-up actions as detailed in the table below. LD would issue warnings to the concerned contractors if necessary.

<b>Case Reference</b>	<b>Concerned issues</b>	<b>Findings</b>
Paragraph 4.13 (Photo 5, 6)	Cracks and damaged parts on asbestos-containing balcony grille panel	No asbestos work was involved.
Paragraph 4.13 (Photo 4, 7) Paragraph 4.28 (Photo 13) Paragraph 4.30 (Photo 14)	Drilled holes, protruding pipe, air-conditioner supporting frame and towel rack on asbestos-containing balcony grille panel	The Housing Department (HD) did not have relevant work records. LD was taking follow-up actions with the tenants through HD.
Paragraph 4.15 (Photo 8)	Railing on balcony grille panel	Not involving asbestos-containing materials.
Paragraph 4.16 (Photo 9, 10)	Asbestos-containing lobby grille with damaged parts	HD did not have relevant work records. Investigation completed.

Paragraph 4.27 (Case 2 photo 12)	Concrete spalling repair and encapsulation works of asbestos-containing balcony grille panel carried out by RIMS contractor	LD has contacted the responsible contractor and worker. The work project did not damage asbestos-containing materials and no worker was exposed to asbestos dust. There was therefore no violation of F&IU(Asbestos)R. Investigation completed.
Paragraph 4.34 (Case 3 Photo 15)	Suspected removal of a chimney with asbestos containing materials	Neither HD nor the tenant concerned kept information about the responsible contractor(s). Investigation completed.

LD is actively coordinating with HD in its follow-up actions on the audit report, including having offered advice on the revision of its asbestos management policy and the methods for the repair and removal of the asbestos containing materials. Surprise inspections will be conducted to ensure that the repair and removal works are properly done by contractors concerned in accordance with the approved working methods and that the workers are properly protected.

LD will keep working closely with different stakeholders, including the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board and Occupational Safety and Health Council, in organizing public talks, seminars and exhibitions; issuing guidebooks and posters; launching mobile applications and broadcasting short films to raise the awareness of contractors and their workers, relevant employers' associations, trade unions and owners' corporations of old buildings, etc. on asbestos containing materials and relevant health hazards.