

**Labour Department (Headquarters)**

勞工處 (總處)

Your reference 來函編號 : CB2/PL/MP  
Our reference 本處檔案編號 : (6) in L/M to LD OD/1-55/79  
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27 March 2019

Ms Betty MA  
Clerk to the Panel on Manpower  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms MA,

**Panel on Manpower  
Letter from Hon Jeremy TAM**

The Secretariat of the Legislative Council Manpower Committee wrote to the Labour and Welfare Bureau on 28 February 2019, enclosing a letter dated 25 February 2019 from the Hon Jeremy TAM to the Chairman of the Committee. In the letter, the Hon TAM expressed concern about the occupational safety of workers engaged in cleaning and maintenance of street lamps. The Labour and Welfare Bureau has referred the matter to the Labour Department for follow up. Following the interim reply on 1 March 2019, our reply to the questions raised in the letter is set out below.

- (I) The Labour Department (“LD”) is very concerned about the fatal industrial accident that happened on 10 February 2019 in Tai Po involving cleaning of street lamps. We commenced immediate on-site investigation as soon as we were notified of the accident so as to identify the cause of the accident, ascertain the liability of the duty holders and recommend improvement measures. We issued suspension notices to the contractor/employer involved to suspend the relevant street lamp installation and maintenance works, including cleaning. The contractor/employer cannot resume the work process until we are satisfied that measures to abate the relevant risks have been taken. The relevant legal notices are still in force. The accident is being investigated in full swing, with the investigation direction mainly on

whether suitable safety measures had been taken by the relevant contractor/employer to ensure that the vehicle should not travel when the worker was in its elevated working platform (“EWP”) and that the platform should be lowered before the vehicle started to travel. We will take actions pursuant to the law if there was any violation of work safety legislation.

- (II) According to LD’s record, except for the above-mentioned case, there has been no other occupational fatality involving a moving EWP with its platform not lowered to its cradle position since 2014. LD does not keep the statistics of relevant occupational injuries.
- (III) The LD has published “Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms” (“GN”) for the industry to follow. The GN provides guidance on the safe operation and proper use of EWP, including the need to interlock the lifting mechanisms of platforms with the outriggers, to ensure no maneuvering of vehicles with workers on their platforms, and to lower platforms to their cradle positions before maneuvering vehicles etc.

LD is very concerned about recent incidents where construction vehicles travelled without lowering their working platforms to the cradle position. LD is engaging stakeholders of the industry to understand the trade practice and will review the GN to see if any revision is necessary to further safeguard employees’ safety at work.

Yours sincerely,



( WU Wai-hung )

for Commissioner for Labour

c.c. Secretary for Labour and Welfare