

For information on  
12 July 2023

**Legislative Council Panel on Manpower**

**Hong Kong’s Occupational Safety and Health Performance  
in 2022**

**Purpose**

This paper aims to brief Members on Hong Kong’s occupational safety and health (“OSH”) performance in 2022, including OSH statistics, the situation of inspection and enforcement, relevant measures on publicity and promotion as well as education and training.

**Overall Situation of Hong Kong’s Occupational Safety in 2022**

**Occupational Injuries**

2. In 2022, the number of occupational injuries<sup>1</sup> was 32 026. The injury rate per 1 000 employees was 11.2 in 2022 (**Table 1**). A breakdown of the occupational injuries by industry in 2022 is at **Annex 1**.

**Table 1 – Occupational Injuries**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Fatal case</b>	218	249	234	263	266
<b>Non-fatal case</b>	35 746	32 623	26 893	30 185	31 760
<b>Total</b>	35 964	32 872	27 127	30 448	32 026
<b>Injury rate/ 1 000 employees</b>	11.8	10.8	9.3	10.5	11.2

Note: Injury rates per 1 000 employees are rounded to one decimal place.

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<sup>1</sup> Occupational injuries refer to injury cases in workplaces reported under the Employees’ Compensation Ordinance, resulting in death or incapacity for work of over three days.

## Industrial Accident

3. In 2022, there were 25 fatal industrial accidents<sup>2</sup> involving the construction industry (17 cases), manufacturing industry (four cases), waste management industry (two cases) and warehousing and support activities for transportation (two cases). Together with other fatalities including non-industrial accidents<sup>3</sup>, natural deaths, cases that happened outside Hong Kong, and cases that happened on vessels etc., the total number of occupational fatalities in 2022 was 266.

4. The number of industrial accidents for all sectors in 2022 was 7 762. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 13.5 in 2022 (**Table 2**). The industrial accidents mainly involved “slip, trip or fall on the same level” and “incorrect manual lifting or carrying”. A breakdown of the industrial accidents by industry in 2022 is at **Annex 2**.

**Table 2 – Industrial Accidents**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Fatal case</b>	16	22	21	25	25
<b>Non-fatal case</b>	10 586	9 232	7 181	8 840	7 737
<b>Total</b>	10 602	9 254	7 202	8 865	7 762
<b>Accident rate/ 1 000 workers</b>	16.5	14.8	12.4	15.2	13.5

Note: Accident rates per 1 000 workers are rounded to one decimal place.

5. As far as the construction industry is concerned, there were 17 industrial fatalities in 2022, which involved “persons falling from height” (ten cases), “trapped by collapsing or overturning object” (six cases) and “trapped in or between objects” (one case). For the above-mentioned ten “persons falling from height” fatalities, three cases involved falling from bamboo scaffold, two cases from suspended working platform, two cases from unfenced/insecurely covered opening, one case from elevated working platform, one case from ladder, and one case from external wall of the building.

6. There were 3 046 industrial accidents in the construction industry in 2022. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 29.1 in 2022 (**Table 3**). A breakdown by

<sup>2</sup> Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance.

<sup>3</sup> Non-industrial accidents refer to accidents that occurred during work at workplaces in Hong Kong and fell under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (but excluding those in industrial undertakings). There were a total of seven such fatal cases in 2022.

type of accident for the construction industry is at **Annex 3**.

**Table 3 – Industrial Accidents in the Construction Industry**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Fatal case</b>	14	16	18	23	17
<b>Non-fatal case</b>	3 527	2 931	2 514	3 086	3 029
<b>Total</b>	3 541	2 947	2 532	3 109	3 046
<b>Accident rate/ 1 000 workers</b>	31.7	29.0	26.1	29.5	29.1

Note: Accident rates per 1 000 workers are rounded to one decimal place.

7. The number of accidents of the food and beverage services was 3 243 in 2022. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 15.0 in 2022 (**Table 4**). A breakdown by type of accident for the food and beverage services sector is at **Annex 4**.

**Table 4 – Industrial Accidents in the Food and Beverage Services Sector**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Fatal case</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Non-fatal case</b>	5 047	4 425	3 124	3 999	3 243
<b>Total</b>	5 047	4 425	3 124	3 999	3 243
<b>Accident rate/ 1 000 workers</b>	20.2	18.1	14.8	18.7	15.0

Note: Accident rates per 1 000 workers are rounded to one decimal place.

### **Risk-based Occupational Safety Strategies**

8. Pursuant to the risk-based principle and keeping close tabs on the OSH risk levels of various industries and the changes, the Labour Department (“LD”) has been formulating and adjusting the strategies of inspection and enforcement, publicity and promotion, as well as education and training in a timely manner in order to promote the OSH culture actively, prevent accidents from happening, and to raise the level of OSH in Hong Kong.

## **Raising Penalties for OSH Legislation**

9. The Occupational Safety and Occupational Health Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2023 (“Amendments Ordinance”) took effect upon gazettal on 28 April this year to increase overall the maximum penalties for OSH legislation, including pitching the maximum fines and imprisonment terms for extremely serious OSH offence at \$10 million and two years respectively so as to enhance their deterrent effect, prompting the relevant duty holder to pay more attention to the precautionary measures for protection of employees’ OSH. LD has launched comprehensive publicity work including issuance of press release, provision of the latest information on the new penalties at LD’s website and Work Safety Alert (“WSA”) mobile application, distribution of leaflets, collaboration with industries to organise briefing sessions, dissemination of promotional messages through radio, broadcasting radio announcements through media channels etc. to enable industries and the public to understand the new penalties of OSH offences. In addition, LD is producing a new promotional poster and TV Announcement in the Public Interest (“API”) with a view to further enhancing the publicity. LD has also reviewed and updated the training materials of the mandatory safety training (“MST”) courses and the free OSH legislation training courses in order to make known to the course participants about the new penalties for OSH offences.

10. On the other hand, LD will continue to co-operate closely with the Department of Justice to ensure that evidence collection and prosecution work will be properly and effectively done, with a view to facilitating the courts to hand down more deterring sentences that are commensurate with the seriousness of the offences. LD will conduct a review on the effectiveness of the Amendments Ordinance two years after its enactment. The review will cover the overall OSH performance of Hong Kong, the OSH awareness of duty holders, statistics of OSH accident as well as their nature and seriousness, and the penalties imposed by the courts etc.

11. Raising the penalties of OSH offences is one of the Government's strategies to improve the OSH performance of Hong Kong. The LD will continue to adopt a three-pronged approach to promote OSH culture through inspection and enforcement, publicity and promotion, as well as education and training, as a result to reduce the occurrence of accidents.

## **OSH Performance of the Construction Industry**

12. The number of fatal industrial accidents and the accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry are the highest among all industries. LD is therefore committed to raising the OSH level of the construction industry through adjusting the strategies in a timely manner and implementing various measures. We urge duty holders to properly manage OSH risks at all times and to take

appropriate safety measures to improve the OSH performance of the industry so as to prevent accidents from happening.

### Inspection and Enforcement

13. In 2022, LD conducted a total of 65 571 safety inspections at construction sites, with 621 suspension notices (“SNs”) and 3 069 improvement notices (“INs”) issued, and 2 034 prosecutions initiated.

14. Targeting at different high-risk processes such as work-at-height, lifting operations and electrical work, LD launched six Special Enforcement Operations (“SEOs”) in 2022. The SEOs placed emphasis on Renovation, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition (“RMAA”) works cum truss-out scaffolding safety, construction sites of new works cum work-at-height safety and construction sites with tower cranes. In the six SEOs, LD issued a total of 786 SNs/INs and initiated 519 prosecutions. Meanwhile, LD stepped up area patrols to combat high-risk work processes of RMAA works, including unsafe work-above-ground activities and improper erection, dismantling and use of truss-out scaffolds.

15. Targeting at work sites with high-risk processes or poor safety performance, LD conducted in-depth surprise inspections to identify unsafe operations and to ascertain whether duty holders of the work sites had established and implemented safe systems of work as well as safety management systems. In 2022, LD launched a total of 30 such enforcement operations, issued 915 SNs/INs and initiated 319 prosecutions.

16. LD continued to participate actively in site safety management committee (“SSMC”) meetings of public works projects to more effectively and efficiently keep close tabs on the projects’ OSH conditions and risks, to offer OSH advice on work processes of higher risk and to urge the contractors and relevant duty holders to conduct risk assessments, devise safe working method statements and implement safety measures as early as possible. In 2022, LD representatives participated in a total of 343 SSMC meetings of public works projects.

### Refining Statutory Notification of Construction Works

17. Pursuant to the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations, contractors responsible for construction works lasting for six weeks or more and engaging more than ten workers are required to notify LD of the works within seven days after their commencement. LD is now amending the legislation to expand the scope of the notification to cover construction works with shorter durations and less workers but involving relatively higher risk, including truss-out scaffolding work and require contractors to notify LD before the commencement of work. After considering the feedback collected from stakeholders during consultation period, it is proposed to

increase the initial four types of high risk works (i.e. truss-out scaffolding work, construction of a tunnel, construction or demolition of a building, excavation or earthwork) as required notifying LD to five types, including scaffolding work on an existing structure.

18. LD also proposes to tighten the notification deadline from “within seven days after the commencement of the works” to “before the commencement of the works” to facilitate the conduct of targeted surprise inspections of such construction works on a risk-based approach in a more timely manner. We are actively following up on the amendment work, and will submit the amended regulations to the Legislative Council for scrutiny as soon as practicable.

### Publicity and Promotion

19. LD continued to strengthen targeted publicity and education work in 2022, with a view to disseminating important information of OSH risks to construction workers and their employers in a more focused and effective manner, including truss-out scaffolding and work-above-ground safety. Details are set out in the following paragraphs.

20. Taking account of the risk situation in the construction industry, the major promotional activities undertaken by LD in 2022 include:

- broadcasted a new set of TV API and radio API to remind employers and workers not taking seemingly simple work-above-ground lightly, including displaying the TV API at betting centres of the Hong Kong Jockey Club;
- collaborated with the Occupational Safety and Health Council (“OSHC”) and TV stations to produce 12 new promotional videos enhancing the public’s awareness on monitoring truss-out scaffolding work process and work-above-ground safety;
- continued the promotion to Owners’ Corporations, property owners and tenants to enhance their safety awareness on renovation and repair works. For example, using the Home Affairs Department’s platform to let owners and tenants understand the hazards of renovation and repair works and to urge their contractors to ensure works safety. In 2022, LD organised and participated in 18 such safety seminars;
- disseminated OSH messages including broadcasting WSA animation videos through mass media, social media, in prominent and busy areas of the community, in large-scale public transport, at Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the Home Affairs Department and on construction sites;

- supported workers' unions and organisations to stage roving exhibitions at locations near renovation and repair works in various districts, and organise safety talks on construction sites;
- issued WSAs (text version and animation) to the industry and members of the public after fatal or serious accident to brief the accident and remind the industry of safety precautionary measures. As at the end of 2022, 21 animation videos of different themes were produced, uploaded to LD's website and broadcasted through various channels;
- conducted safety audits and analysed the systemic risks of high-risk processes, and promulgated systemic safety problems and preventive measures through the production of Systemic Safety Alerts ("SSAs"). SSAs were uploaded to LD's website and issued to safety practitioners to urge them to apply the safety management principles in advising preventive measures to their employers/clients. The SSAs produced in 2022 included "power-operated elevating working platforms safety", "demolition work safety" and "Machinery Safety of Waste Recycling Industry";
- published an "Accident Casebook on Lifting Operation" and revised publications such as the "Electric Shock" notice to enable stakeholders to have better understanding of OSH requirements and risk conditions;
- given the occurrence of work-above-ground accidents involving renovation and repair works from time to time, collaborated with the OSHC, the construction industry and the property management industry launched the "Promoting the Use of Light-duty Working Platforms Scheme Phase II". Through property management companies, light-duty working platforms (step platforms and hop-up platforms) are lent to contractors and workers free of charge for use in residential estates or buildings to replace using ladders. The Scheme received more than 600 applications with about 1 600 light-duty working platforms provided to eligible residential estates/buildings;
- collaborated with OSHC to promote sponsorship schemes for small and medium enterprises, covering light-duty working platforms, fall arresting equipment for working at height, portable current residual devices and tool lanyard;
- collaborated with OSHC and the construction industry to launch the "Construction Industry Safety Award Scheme" with a view to fostering safety culture in the industry and enhancing work safety awareness of employers, employees and their family members; and

- produced picture-centric, simple and reader-friendly OSH promotional leaflets in different languages of diverse races, translated the sub-titles of the WSA animation videos into languages of diverse races, and disseminated the work safety messages through newspapers for people of diverse races to enable the construction workers of diverse races could grasp OSH information with a view to raising their safety awareness.

21. LD will continue to step up efforts to promote the construction industry safety, disseminate OSH messages to different stakeholders through different channels, foster OSH culture in the construction industry, and raise safety awareness of workers and frontline management personnel. LD is also collaborating closely with OSHC to organise a wide range of publicity and promotional activities to reach frontline personnel in a more effective manner.

22. LD agrees with the introduction of the concept of construction safety design, duty holders (e.g. owners, designers and engineers) can fully consider relevant OSH issues during planning and design stages of construction projects, so as to eliminate or reduce OSH risks during construction and maintenance in the future. LD has actively participated in the work of the "Task Force on Design for Safety" set up by the Construction Industry Council ("CIC"), and will collaborate with different stakeholders in due course to formulate promotional strategies. LD will also promote the industry to adopt the concept in construction projects through multi-pronged approach, including encouraging proponents of large-scale development projects to integrate the construction safety design into their construction projects to enhance the OSH in construction industry.

23. With the development of technology, LD also recognises the importance of uplifting safety in construction industry by applying innovative technology in construction projects. At the beginning of this year, the government has pressed ahead with the implementation of "Smart Site Safety System" (the system), requiring the public works projects with a contract sum of over 30 million to adopt the system, and also subsidising the application of the system in private construction projects through the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund. LD will continue to keep in view the development of various advanced technological equipment and encourage the industry to adopt appropriate technological equipment to prevent accidents.

### Education and Training

24. LD formulated and adjusted the education and training strategies based on



OSH risks, including continual improving MST courses<sup>4</sup>, organising OSH legislation training courses and OSH seminars on different topics etc. to strengthen the awareness of the construction industry about common risks and its ability to eliminate them to prevent accidents.

25. Major education and training activities implemented by LD in 2022 include:

- reviewed and enhanced the mandatory basic safety training course (construction work) and MST courses of confined spaces operation;
- conducted monitoring inspections in different modes (including surprise inspections and covert inspections which involved inspecting officers in the guise of a course participant) to ensure that the MST courses are delivered in accordance with the course content. If a training course provider (“TCP”) has breached any approval condition, LD may issue a written warning to instruct the TCP to take remedial measures. In case of serious breaches, LD will instruct the TCP to stop engaging the trainer (if the breach involved the trainer) or withdraw the approval for the TCP to run the related training course. In 2022, LD conducted 190 surprise inspections and 44 covert inspections, and issued 70 warning letters;
- organised free OSH legislation training courses including courses designed for trainers from different companies so that they can provide training for employees of their companies. The courses cover different topics such as work-at-height, lifting work, working in times of inclement weather, hot environment, analysis of industrial accident cases etc.;
- launched new courses on “Loadshifting Machinery Regulation cum Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platform and Common Heavy Machinery”, “Major Safety and Health Regulations related to Employees’ Duties” and “Confined Spaces Regulation and other Safety Regulations related to Risk Assessment” to strengthen employers’ and employees’ awareness and understanding of relevant OSH legislation;
- co-organised OSH online seminars and talks of different topics with individual organisations (including CIC and OSHC) and arranged our staff to serve as speakers to explain OSH risks and preventive measures to participants; and

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<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to the provisions of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and its subsidiary regulations, workers engaged in specified high-risk industries, machinery operations or activities (such as construction practitioners, crane and loadshifting machinery operators, workers engaged in confined spaces operation) shall complete relevant MST courses before carrying out the relevant work. LD has formulated a series of guidance notes for various MST courses, and approved and recognised training courses offered by qualified training course providers.

- supported workers' unions and organisations to organise site safety talks in which family members of deceased of construction accidents shared with frontline workers causes of the accidents as well as preventive measures and collaborated with different groups (including OSHC) to co-organise site safety talks at lunch breaks for workers of diverse races.

## **OSH Performance of Food and Beverage Services Sector**

26. Considering that the food and beverage services sector has the highest number of industrial accidents, LD also formulated targeted strategies, including strengthening our publicity and promotion as well as education and training efforts etc. to improve the OSH performance of the industry. As mentioned above, LD continued to adopt a three-pronged approach to enhance OSH of the food and beverage services sector.

### Inspection and Enforcement

27. In 2022, LD conducted a total of 11 043 inspections, with 482 INs issued and 382 prosecutions initiated. In addition to routine surprise inspections, LD launched an SEO targeting catering industry in 2022. During the SEO, we paid particular attention to fire prevention measures, mechanical and electrical safety etc.

### Publicity and Promotion as well as Education and Training

28. LD continued to suspend the "Catering Industry Safety Award Scheme" in 2022 in view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to the business of the food and beverage services sector. To promote the safety performance of the sector, LD in collaboration with OSHC and the industry launched the "Catering Industry Safety Promotional Campaign 2022/2023 ("the Campaign")". The Campaign comprised the Safety Quiz Competition, the Catering Industry Safety Video Competition and the focal promotion of catering safety animations. LD also produced five episodes of catering safety animations under the themes of machinery safety, manual handling operations, burn prevention, slip prevention and cut prevention. They were uploaded to the LD's website and widely disseminated through different channels including mobile media, display panels of catering establishments, outdoor gigantic display panels etc.

29. LD continued to promote work safety of the food and beverage services sector through TV and radio broadcasting and to organise occupational safety talks, as well as free training courses, with content covered different areas, such as key legislation relating to catering safety, and safety regulations on manual handling operations etc. to enhance employers' and employees' OSH awareness.

## **Enhancing the Performance of Registered Safety Auditors (“RSAs”) and Registered Safety Officers (“RSOs”)**

30. To ensure RSAs and RSOs discharge their duties effectively, LD from time to time examines the reports they compiled and conducts on-site inspections of the workplaces concerned, so as to monitor their work performance and assess their professional integrity. In respect of the performance of RSAs and RSOs, LD issued 12 written warnings in 2022 to urge them for making improvements.

## **Enhancing the Complaint Channels**

31. In order to conduct inspections in a more targeted manner, LD facilitates employees and members of the public to report unsafe working conditions with mobile electronic device through an online OSH complaint platform with a view to carrying out prompt follow-up actions. In 2022, LD received a total of 1 066 OSH complaint cases through such platform. After inspections, a total of 772 written warnings, 20 SNs and 198 INs were issued, and 117 prosecutions were initiated/would be initiated.

## **Overall Situation of Hong Kong’s Occupational Health in 2022**

### **Confirmed Cases of Occupational Diseases**

32. In 2022, the number of confirmed cases of occupational diseases was 458. The more common occupational diseases included occupational deafness, silicosis, tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm and mesothelioma. Details are set out in paragraphs 33 to 37 below and the relevant statistics are at Annex 5.

### **Occupational Deafness**

33. Occupational deafness is permanent hearing loss arising from at least five to ten years of exposure to noisy environment at work in specified occupations. In 2022, there were 330 confirmed cases of occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss). Most of these cases were involved in rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion and working in close proximity to internal combustion engines, turbines or pressurised jet engines.

### Silicosis

34. Silicosis is a fibrotic lung disease caused by inhalation of silica dust. Its latent period could be as long as 10 to 20 years. The disease in most cases was attributable to inhalation of silica dust at work many years ago and most cases involved construction workers. The number of confirmed cases of silicosis was 79 in 2022.

### Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm

35. ECO prescribes six musculoskeletal diseases (including tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm) as occupational diseases, because epidemiological evidence reveals that these diseases have specific relationship with certain occupations. For example, prolonged repetitive actions or excessive force exerted by the hand at work could cause tenosynovitis. In 2022, there were 21 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm, with patients engaged in service industries and sales, clerical support work and elementary occupations, etc. LD will continue to conduct publicity for duty holders and workers of relevant industries to promote the prevention of upper limb musculoskeletal diseases.

### Mesothelioma

36. Inhalation of asbestos fibers at work can lead to mesothelioma, and generally the latent period of the disease could be as long as 30 to 40 years. Most of the mesothelioma cases had engaged in work with possible exposure to asbestos, such as demolition works, ship repairing and maintenance, boiler repairing, etc. In 2022, there were 21 confirmed cases of mesothelioma.

### Other Occupational Diseases

37. Other confirmed cases of occupational diseases in 2022 included three cases of asbestosis, two cases of tuberculosis, one case of occupational dermatitis and one case of compressed air illness.

## **Initiatives to Enhance Occupational Health**

38. Occupational hygienists of LD are mainly responsible for inspecting workplaces with potential occupational health hazards. In addition, they conduct occupational hygiene surveys to assess the occupational health risks posed to employees at work. Based on the assessment findings, they review whether

appropriate control measures have been formulated and implemented by duty holders to protect employees' occupational health. In 2022, the occupational hygienists conducted a total of 5 598 occupational hygiene surveys.

39. The occupational hygienists adopt a risk-based strategy and conduct targeted inspections on certain occupational health hazards that are more serious or of higher concern, such as heat stress at work, noisy environment, prolonged standing at work, confined space works, etc., to ensure that relevant workplaces have taken appropriate risk control measures to protect the safety and health of employees.

40. In terms of publicity and education, LD has been promoting the awareness of employers and employees on the prevention of occupational and work-related diseases through organising health talks and seminars, distributing educational publications, broadcasting APIs on television and the radio, publishing feature articles in newspapers, showing educational videos and displaying advertisements on mobile advertising media from time to time. In 2022, LD organised 858 occupational health talks for about 48 000 participants. The topics included prevention of upper limb and lower limb disorders, manual handling operations and prevention of back injuries, heat stroke prevention, preventing gas poisoning in confined spaces, occupational stress and occupational health of catering workers, etc. Owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, some of the health talks were conducted online to facilitate participation of employers and employees.

41. LD also collaborated with the OSHC, Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board, Occupational Deafness Compensation Board, employers' associations and workers' unions in promoting occupational health through a variety of activities. These included organisation of health talks and occupational health award, distribution of promotional materials, etc.

### Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work

42. In order to enhance the awareness of heat stroke prevention in the industries, LD launched a large-scale promotional campaign on heat stroke prevention in collaboration with OSHC from April to September 2022. Through outreach visits and extensive publicity, the campaign sought to remind workers of the potential hazards of working under very hot weather and the need to take suitable heat stroke preventive measures. In addition, following the first launch of the "Portable Waist Fan Sponsorship Scheme for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ("SMEs")" in 2021 which was well-received by the industry widely, LD and OSHC launched the Scheme again in 2022. The response of the industries to the Scheme was overwhelming. A total of 3 163 applications were received involving 35 032 sets of fans.

43. In respect of inspection and enforcement, LD stepped up inspection of outdoor workplaces with a higher risk of heat stroke in April to September 2022, including construction sites, container terminals/container yards, and workplaces of outdoor cleansing workers, horticulture workers and security guards. During the inspections, LD checked whether the duty holders had taken appropriate preventive measures, including providing adequate drinking water to employees, keeping employees off direct sunlight as far as possible, ensuring good ventilation at the workplaces, and providing suitable rest breaks, etc., to effectively safeguard the employees' OSH. If employers were found to have failed to adopt appropriate measures during the inspections, LD would take appropriate enforcement actions. Last year, LD conducted 26 094 inspections and issued 14 warning letters.

44. The weather in Hong Kong has become increasingly hot in recent years as a result of climate change. In order to strengthen the protection of employees' occupational health, LD issued the "Guidance Notes on Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work" and launched the "Heat Stress at Work Warning" on 15 May this year to remind employers and employees to, so far as reasonably practicable and based on risks, take appropriate preventive measures to reduce the risk of heat stroke among employees at work. LD has been collaborating with OSHC, CIC and other stakeholders to enhance the relevant publicity and promotion work, and is committed to assisting the industries to make reference to and flexibly apply the recommendations of the guidance notes to formulate appropriate heat stroke prevention measures. Meanwhile, LD will continue to conduct site inspections to ensure that employers take necessary measures to safeguard employees against heat stroke at work.

#### Prevention of Gas Poisoning in Confined Spaces

45. In view of the two fatal accidents in which workers inhaled toxic gases while working in manholes in late 2021, LD and key stakeholders working in confined spaces conducted two video consultation meetings in early 2022 to explore how to relevant codes of practice, guidelines and safety training could be further optimised. Based on the views of stakeholders, we published the "Guidance Notes on Safety and Health for Prevention of Gas Poisoning in Drainage Works" in October 2022 to provide practical guidelines for proprietors, contractors and workers engaged in drainage works in confined spaces so as to prevent gas poisoning accidents when workers are carrying out drainage works. In addition, we are currently reviewing the content of the relevant code of practice and safety training, and will make appropriate revisions.

## Managing the risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease in the work environment

46. According to the OSHC's study report on workplace deaths caused by cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases ("CCVDs") in 2021, almost all of the cases had personal risk factors related to unhealthy lifestyle, such as excessive body weight, poor eating habits, chronic smoking and lack of physical activity. Construction workers and security guards constituted a higher proportion of cases in the study. In this regard, LD, together with OSHC, the Department of Health as well as employers' and employees' organisations of the property management and construction industries, established a steering committee and launched the "Heart Caring Campaign" in May 2022 to promote the implementation of health-friendly measures at workplaces, increase the awareness of employees in the property management and construction industries on CCVDs risks and encourage them to properly manage their health and risks of contracting CCVDs.

47. The content of the "Heart Caring Campaign" is diverse. In addition to disseminating health information about CCVDs to promote the idea of "early prevention" and "early management", organisations in the two industries are also invited to sign workplace "Heart Caring Charter" as a commitment to promote healthy culture at organisational level and help prevent CCVDs through administrative measures. The programme also includes arranging healthcare workers to conduct health assessments for employees and, based on the assessment results, recommending or arranging employees in need to visit District Health Centres ("DHC") or general outpatient clinics ("GOPC") of the Hospital Authority ("HA") for more detailed assessment and follow-up. In addition, the programme encompasses activities such as health management and mindfulness exercise that aim at improving the employees' physical and mental well-being. As at the end of May this year, a total of 1,311 organizations invited from the above two industries had signed the "Heart Caring Charter".

### **Clinical Service of Occupational Health Clinics**

48. LD runs two occupational health clinics in Kwun Tong and Fanling, providing clinical consultation service to all employees in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, and the New Territories. Employees who suspect their diseases to be work-related can make an appointment in these two clinics for diagnosis and treatment. The doctors will examine patients' comprehensive medical and occupational history and the circumstances of the work, body condition and the relevant living habit, and conduct physical examinations and arrange relevant laboratory tests. They may also arrange inspections to patients' workplaces if necessary to understand whether there are hazardous factors in their workplaces that

are related to the diseases. Through comprehensive analysis of such information, the doctors can diagnose whether the patients' conditions are consistent with occupational diseases or other work-related diseases, and provide suitable treatment for them. For the convenience of employees, the occupational health clinics also provide services on Saturday mornings. In 2022, the clinics provided a total of 9 177 clinical consultations.

49. LD promotes the services of the occupational health clinics by distributing pamphlets and posters at health talks and seminars as well as posting advertisements on the newsletters of unions and publications of OSHC. LD also places advertisement on major public transport as well as broadcasts television and radio APIs from time to time to raise the public awareness of the clinic services.

### **Way Forward**

50. LD will continue to work in close partnership with related organisations, such as OSHC, CIC, trade associations, workers' unions, professional bodies and other government bureaux/departments to ensure employers and employees comply with the OSH legislation through enforcement, promotion and publicity, and to enhance the awareness of employers and employees on occupational health so as to improve safety and health at work.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**  
**Labour Department**  
**July 2023**



**Occupational Injuries in All Workplaces in 2022**  
**- analysed by Industry Section**  
二零二二年所有工作地點之職業傷亡個案 - 按行業主類分析

Industry Section 行業主類	2021 二零二一年	2022 二零二二年
Agriculture, forestry and fishing      農業、林業及漁業	16	13      (1)
Mining and quarrying                      採礦及採石業	0	0
Manufacturing                                製造業	1 502      (10)	1 191      (12)
Electricity, gas and waste Management                                  電力、燃氣及廢棄物管理	113      (3)	112      (5)
Construction                                 建造業	3 365      (56)	4 377      (51)
Import/export, wholesale and retail trades                              進出口貿易、批發及零售業	2 776      (26)	2 259      (23)
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services                                運輸、倉庫、郵政及速遞服務	2 486      (37)	2 408      (23)
Accommodation and food services        住宿及膳食服務	5 381      (14)	4 409      (17)
Information and communications         資訊及通訊	248	207      (5)
Financing and insurance                   金融及保險	178      (2)	162      (4)
Real estate                                    地產	2 563      (31)	2 400      (35)
Professional and business services       專業及商用服務	4 406      (59)	4 767      (63)
Public administration, and social and personal services                        公共行政以及社會及個人服務	7 158      (15)	9 494      (19)
Other industries                              其他行業	256      (10)	227      (8)
<b>TOTAL    總數</b>	<b>30 448      (263)</b>	<b>32 026      (266)</b>

## Notes:

- Occupational injuries refer to injury cases in workplaces reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, resulting in death or incapacity for work of over three days.
- Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities which has also been included in the number of accidents.
- The above injury figures of 2021 are recorded as at 30 March 2022.
- The above injury figures of 2022 are recorded as at 30 March 2023.
- The above statistics are compiled based on the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification Version 2.0.

## 註釋:

- 職業傷亡個案是指根據《僱員補償條例》呈報在工作地點發生的致命個案或導致失去工作能力三天以上的受傷個案。
- 括號內的數字顯示死亡人數，數字已包括在意外數目內。
- 上列 2021 年的傷亡數字為截至 2022 年 3 月 30 日所記錄的數字。
- 上列 2022 年的傷亡數字為截至 2023 年 3 月 30 日所記錄的數字。
- 以上的統計數字是按《香港標準行業分類 2.0 版》編製。

**Industrial Accidents in All Workplaces in 2022**  
**- analysed by Industry Section**  
二零二二年所有工作地點之工業意外個案 - 按行業主類分析

Industry Section 行業主類		2021 二零二一年	2022 二零二二年
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	農業、林業及漁業	0	0
Mining and quarrying	採礦及採石業	0	0
Manufacturing	製造業	1 172	955 (4)
Electricity, gas and waste Management	電力、燃氣及廢棄物管理	61	57 (2)
Construction	建造業	3 109 (23)	3 046 (17)
Import/export, wholesale and retail trades	進出口貿易、批發及零售業	0	0
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services	運輸、倉庫、郵政及速遞服務	415 (2)	358 (2)
Accommodation and food services	住宿及膳食服務	3 999	3 243
Information and communications	資訊及通訊	7	3
Financing and insurance	金融及保險	0	0
Real estate	地產	0	0
Professional and business services	專業及商用服務	0	0
Public administration, and social and personal services	公共行政以及社會及個人服務	102	100
Other industries	其他行業	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>總數</b>	<b>8 865 (25)</b>	<b>7 762 (25)</b>

Notes:

1. Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance.
2. Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities which has also been included in the number of accidents.
3. The above accident figures of 2021 are recorded as at 30 March 2022.
4. The above accident figures of 2022 are recorded as at 30 March 2023.
5. The above statistics are compiled based on the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification Version 2.0.

註釋:

1. 工業意外是指《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。
2. 括號內的數字顯示死亡人數，數字已包括在意外數目內。
3. 上列 2021 年的意外數字為截至 2022 年 3 月 30 日所記錄的數字。
4. 上列 2022 年的意外數字為截至 2023 年 3 月 30 日所記錄的數字。
5. 以上的統計數字是按《香港標準行業分類 2.0 版》編製。

**Industrial Accidents in Construction Industry in 2022**  
**- analysed by Type of Accident**  
**二零二二年建造業之工業意外個案 - 按意外類別分析**

Type of Accident 意外類別		2021 二零二一年	2022 二零二二年
Trapped in or between objects	受困於物件之內或物件之間	168 (2)	160 (1)
Injured whilst lifting or carrying	提舉或搬運物件時受傷	616	583
Slip, trip or fall on same level	滑倒、絆倒或在同一高度跌倒	818	921
Fall of person from height	人體從高處墮下	263 (8)	213 (10)
Striking against fixed or stationary object	與固定或不動的物件碰撞	283 (1)	317
Striking against or struck by moving object	被移動物件或與移動物件碰撞	284 (3)	285
Stepping on object	踏在物件上	21	30
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	暴露於有害物質中或接觸有害物質	25	9
Contact with electricity or electric discharge	觸電或接觸放出的電流	6	7
Trapped by collapsing or overturning object	受困於倒塌或翻側的物件	13 (3)	17 (6)
Struck by falling object	遭墮下的物件撞擊	161 (2)	188
Struck by moving vehicle	遭移動中的車輛撞倒	15	12
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	196	148
Drowning	遇溺	0	0
Exposure to fire	火警燒傷	2	5
Exposure to explosion	爆炸受傷	0	1
Injured by hand tool	被手工具所傷	147	105
Injured by fall of ground	泥土傾瀉受傷	0	0
Asphyxiation	窒息	5 (4)	0
Contact with hot surface or substance	觸及灼熱表面或物質	19	10
Injured by animal	被動物所傷	3	4
Injured in workplace violence	於工作場所暴力事件中受傷	0	0
Others	其他類別	64	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>總數</b>	<b>3 109 (23)</b>	<b>3 046 (17)</b>

Notes:

1. Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance.
2. Figures in brackets denote the number of fatalities which has also been included in the number of accidents.
3. The above accident figures of 2021 are recorded as at 30 March 2022.
4. The above accident figures of 2022 are recorded as at 30 March 2023.

註釋:

1. 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。
2. 括號內的數字顯示死亡人數，數字已包括在意外數目內。
3. 上列 2021 年的意外數字為截至 2022 年 3 月 30 日所記錄的數字。
4. 上列 2022 年的意外數字為截至 2023 年 3 月 30 日所記錄的數字。

**Industrial Accidents in Food and Beverage Services in 2022**  
**- analysed by Type of Accident**  
**二零二二年餐飲服務業之工業意外個案 - 按意外類別分析**

Type of Accident 意外類別		2021 二零二一年	2022 二零二二年
Trapped in or between objects	受困於物件之內或物件之間	51	46
Injured whilst lifting or carrying	提舉或搬運物件時受傷	588	415
Slip, trip or fall on same level	滑倒、絆倒或在同一高度跌倒	946	797
Fall of person from height	人體從高處墮下	23	29
Striking against fixed or stationary object	與固定或不動的物件碰撞	323	237
Striking against or struck by moving object	被移動物件或與移動物件碰撞	155	145
Stepping on object	踏在物件上	7	1
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	暴露於有害物質中或接觸有害物質	32	34
Contact with electricity or electric discharge	觸電或接觸放出的電流	1	4
Trapped by collapsing or overturning object	受困於倒塌或翻側的物件	1	3
Struck by falling object	遭墮下的物件撞擊	70	69
Struck by moving vehicle	遭移動中的車輛撞倒	5	4
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	71	66
Drowning	遇溺	0	0
Exposure to fire	火警燒傷	4	8
Exposure to explosion	爆炸受傷	1	2
Injured by hand tool	被手工具所傷	738	615
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	900	724
Injured by animal	被動物所傷	19	22
Injured in workplace violence	於工作場所暴力事件中受傷	0	0
Others	其他類別	64	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>總數</b>	<b>3 999</b>	<b>3 243</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.
- The above accident figures of 2021 are recorded as at 30 March 2022.
- The above accident figures of 2022 are recorded as at 30 March 2023.

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。
- 上列 2021 年的意外數字為截至 2022 年 3 月 30 日所記錄的數字。
- 上列 2022 年的意外數字為截至 2023 年 3 月 30 日所記錄的數字。

**Confirmed Cases of Occupational Diseases**  
**from 2018 to 2022**

<b>Occupational disease</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Occupational deafness	275	308	78	394	330
Silicosis	59	52	88	67	79
Tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm	39	35	17	28	21
Mesothelioma	10	10	12	20	21
Asbestosis	2	7	12	7	3
Tuberculosis	4	5	3	11	2
Occupational dermatitis	3	5	2	1	1
Compressed air illness	1	1	0	1	1
Others	3	2	1	0	0
<b>Total :</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>458</b>