

By post and by email at [dso-se@labour.gov.hk](mailto:dso-se@labour.gov.hk)

4 May 2023

Mr WONG Ho Kuen  
Labour Department  
Occupational Safety – System and Support  
Technical Support Unit / Structural Engineering  
Room 1202, 12/F  
14 Taikoo Wan Road  
Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong

Dear Mr WONG


**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers  
Regarding the Proposed Amendment to the  
Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety**

On behalf of the Institution, I am pleased to present to you our views and suggestions as set out in the enclosure for your consideration on the captioned subject.

The Institution welcomes the opportunity to work with the Government and offer our expertise and experience on the area of concern if and when it is needed.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Davis WONG (Mr)  
Director

Enc

CKH/DW/SS

**Enclosure**

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers  
Regarding the Proposed Amendment to the  
Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (“HKIE”) noted the Labour Department had conducted a review of the Code of Practice for Bamboo Scaffolding Safety (“CoP”) and its proposed amendments to the CoP for enhancing occupational safety of employees engaged in bamboo scaffolding works.

2. Maintaining a safe and healthy environment at work is always the utmost priority, the HKIE welcomes any amendment to CoP that enhances occupational safety of workers engaged in scaffolding works.

3. While the proposed amendments are in principle agreeable, the HKIE would like to reiterate our view that bamboo scaffold engaged in construction or maintenance activities should be phased out in stages and ultimately be banned, only except when there is a sufficiently strong justification, such as risk assessment and structural design that support the use of bamboo scaffold as the only practical option.

4. The recommendation of phasing out bamboo scaffold is made based on environmental and safety considerations. First of all, bamboo is not as strong and durable as steel as a scaffolding material. Secondly, the fire accident of a skyscraper under construction in early March 2023 again rang the alarm bells of the risk of bamboo scaffold’s ignitable nature which could easily spread fire to other floors surrounded by it.

5. The Administration is urged to consider introducing and promoting the use of other durable and environmentally friendly scaffolding materials to improve occupational safety of employees engaged in scaffolding works as a whole.