

By post and by email at sso\_SSO-EL-1@labour.gov.hk

22 June 2022

Mr WONG Ka Hing  
Labour Department  
14/F, Harbour Building  
38 Pier Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr WONG

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers  
Regarding the Use of Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds**

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 Use of Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (“HKIE”) noted the Labour Department (LD)’s publication of the online version of the “Safety Guidance Notes on Construction and Use of Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds” (Guidance Note) in Traditional Chinese in April 2022 and has no further comment on the Guidance Note itself. However, in view of recent incidents in cases where bamboo was used as scaffolding materials, the HKIE suggests the Administration should consider the use of other scaffolding materials such as steel.

2. Truss-out bamboo scaffold is commonly used as a working platform for external renovation on a building. However, comparing with steel scaffold, bamboo is easily damaged, has a shorter structural life and is not an environmentally friendly material. Using bamboo scaffold is also not safe particularly in stormy days.

3. The HKIE is of the view that with the introduction of other scaffolding materials, bamboo scaffold could 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 would require bamboo scaffold. It is expected that work safety and environmental sustainability could be better achieved with the use of stronger and more durable scaffolding materials.