

Press in July 1996

<i>Press July 11, 1996</i>	
Headline :	<i>Housing Authority Strives to Ensure Site Safety</i>
Content :	<p>The following is issued on behalf of the Housing Authority :</p> <p>The Housing Authority has taken a number of initiatives to ensure that construction workers and building contractors develop safe working habits and sound management practices, the Chairman of the Housing Authority, Ms Rosanna Wong, said today (Thursday).</p> <p>Speaking at the launching ceremony of the 1996 Site Safety Campaign, Ms Wong said the theme this year was the safety of temporary works.</p> <p>"The number of serious accidents resulting from fall of persons necessitates a special focus on improving safe working practice on temporary working platforms," she noted.</p> <p>She said that starting from last January, building and engineering contractors of the Authority were required to produce Safety Plans and conduct Safety Audits.</p> <p>The Safety Plans would set out the contractors' control measures in ensuring a safe working environment for workers, while the Safety Audits would be used to assess the effectiveness of such measures.</p> <p>"With the assistance of the Occupational Safety and Health Council, we have developed a Safety Audit System," Ms Wong added.</p> <p>At the same time, she said plans were in hand to amend the Authority's building and engineering contracts to require general workers to hold an "Enhanced Green Card" and those in designated trades, a "Silver Card" later this year.</p> <p>"Our research not only indicates an inadequate general level of training, but also the need to target trades with high accident levels," she said.</p> <p>The Housing Authority started the first Site Safety Campaign in 1990. Since then, the total number of accidents on Housing Authority sites has been reduced by 75 per cent while the accident rate has gone down by 60 per cent to 83 per 1,000 workers.</p> <p>END/ Thursday, July 11, 1996</p>

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