

Joint statement of professional institutions in the construction industry on enhancing safety on construction sites

As one of the major stakeholders in the construction industry, The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects and The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (hereafter “the four institutions”) deeply regret and are highly concerned about the recent series of successive construction site accidents. The four institutions extend their deepest sympathy to the workers who lost their lives or were injured in these accidents, as well as to their families. In view of the recent upward trend in accident rates, the four institutions urge their members to adopt and implement Design for Safety, safety management, and safe working exactly, regarding safety assurance as their number one consideration under all circumstances.

The construction industry is one of Hong Kong's important industries and has long supported the city's prosperity and stable development. Through years of effort, the accident rate at construction sites has decreased substantially (Note: from 374 cases per thousand workers in 1990 to 29 cases in 2022). In recent years, however, the rate has reached a plateau, unable yet to achieve further significant reductions. Moreover, serious incidents, and those which caused damage to human lives or the loss thereof, have become recurrent recently.

Even though holding the four institutions' relevant valid membership cards can be considered, under the current legislation, as equivalent to holding the Construction Industry Safety Training Certificate (also known as “Safety Card” or “Green Card”), and even if the current constitutions of the four institutions require their members to undertake certain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) annually, the four institutions will request their members, if the latter's daily work requires entry into construction sites, to annually declare the completion of certain hours of CPD safety training of their own accord as a condition for membership renewal. This is to further strengthen the safety management of construction sites. The measure will be rolled out as soon as the concerned professional institutions have completed amending their respective procedures for membership renewal application.

Site safety is everyone's responsibility. The four institutions appeal to all the stakeholders, whether they are property owners, consultants, contractors, management personnel, or frontline supervisors and workers, to give weight to lives, prioritise safe operation, and set “Zero Accident” at sites as their goal on the daily level of design, works, and site management.



The joint signatories being:

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

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The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Email : hkiasec@hkia.org.hk

Tel : 2511 6323

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Email : corpcom@hkie.org.hk

Tel : 2895 4446

The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

Email : secretariat@hkila.com

Tel : 2896 2833

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Email : media@hkis.org.hk

Tel : 2526 3679