

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Construction Industry Council Publishes**  
**“Safety Alert No. 003/12 on Prevention of Electrocution”**

Hong Kong • 23 November 2012 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) today released a new publication entitled “*Safety Alert No. 003/12 on Prevention of Electrocution*” (Safety Alert). This Safety Alert aims to heighten construction and electrical workers’ awareness over the prevention of electrical accidents as well as remind the employers and contractors to comply with the mandatory requirements in order to ensure the safety of their workers.

**Introduction**

The CIC is highly concerned about the recent suspected electrocution accidents in construction and renovation works sites. To prevent similar accidents from happening again, the Informal Task Force on Site Safety Incidents of the Com-CSS drafted the Safety Alert within a very short period of time.

**Publication**

Mr. CHEUNG Hau-wai, Chairman of the CIC’s Committee on Construction Site Safety said, “It is extremely important for frontline construction and electrical workers, employers as well as contractors to be aware of electrical safety on construction sites. We strongly advise them to follow our suggested safety measures on the Safety Alert in order to prevent similar accidents from happening again.” Mr. Victor KWONG, Chairman of the Informal Task Force on Site Safety Incidents added that the close collaboration between construction workers and employers is key to lowering the possibility of electrocution.

The Safety Alert is available for download on the CIC’s website <[www.hkcic.org](http://www.hkcic.org)>.



### **About the Construction Industry Council**

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed on 1 February 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance Cap. 587. The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to Government, provide training for construction workforce and serve as a communication channel for Government to solicit advice on all construction-related matters.

To learn more about the CIC, please visit website <[www.hkcic.org](http://www.hkcic.org)> for further details.

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(The actual Safety Alert could be found on P.3 to P.5)



## Prevention of Electrocution

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### Prevention of Electrocution

Casualties arising from the use of electricity or electrical appliances on construction sites, including renovation work sites, are not uncommon. Workers involved in accidents may include those engaged in electrical works and other works. To prevent the occurrence of electrical accidents, employers, contractors, electrical workers and other construction workers should be aware of the following safety precautions:

#### As Employers and Contractors

**Must comply with the mandatory requirements and take adequate measures so as to ensure the safety of the electrical workers and other workers:**

- Provide safe plant and safe systems of work;
- Conduct risk assessment by a competent person before the commencement of work;
- Formulate and implement appropriate safety precautions, including permit-to-work system, so as to eliminate or properly control the electrical hazards;
- Employ and arrange registered electrical workers to carry out electrical works;
- Provide adequate safety training and revision course to workers, equipping them with the basic knowledge on safe use of electricity;
- Provide proper and adequate inspection apparatus for electrical systems, switch locks, warning notices, insulation tools, personal protective equipment, etc.; and
- Supervise workers to follow the safety precautions.



#### Disclaimer

Whilst reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, the CIC nevertheless would encourage readers to seek appropriate independent advice from their professional advisers where possible and readers should not treat or rely on this publication as a substitute for such professional advice for taking any relevant actions.

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### Prevention of Electrocution

#### Electrical Practitioners and other Construction Workers

- **“Isolate electricity source before conducting electrical works”** – All the electricity sources involved should be safely isolated to avoid work on live circuit before conducting any electrical works, including connecting electrical wires or checking and repairing electrical systems;
- **Conduct electrical works by registered electrical workers** – Non-registered electrical workers are not allowed to conduct electrical works without the instruction and supervision of a registered electrical worker;
- **Lock out the electricity source and display suitable warning notices** – The switchboards and/or switches must, so far as practicable, be locked with warning notices displayed, to ensure safe isolation of the electricity sources. If the switches cannot be locked out, control measures, for instance locking the switch room with barriers provided to fence off the switches and the display of suitable warning notices should be implemented to prevent inadvertent re-connection of the electricity sources;
- **Render the electrical installation dead** – Before the actual commencement of work on the electrical installations, an independent inspection or a permit-to-work system should, so far as reasonably practicable, be adopted with the use of calibrated voltage indicators, meters, electricity testers or other suitable equipment to ensure that the electrical installation has been rendered dead;
- **Examine the portable electrical tools before use** – Portable electrical tools, wires, etc. must be examined before use. If there is any damage or defeat found, do not use the tools and report it to the person in-charge immediately;
- **Do not remove the protective devices** – Power supply systems and electrical tools shall be equipped with suitable fuses and circuit breakers. Do not remove or bypass the protective devices;
- **Use of personal protective equipment** – Use suitable personal protective equipment, such as anti-electric shock safety shoes, insulating gloves and insulating rubber mats, etc.; and
- **Hazardous work conditions**
  - (i) **Working at height** – If electrical works cannot be conducted at ground level, suitable working platforms should be used; and
  - (ii) **Working in humid weather, ceiling voids or situations with earthed structures/fittings in the close vicinity, etc.** – A comprehensive risk assessment shall be conducted by a competent person before the commencement of work. A permit-to-work system shall be adopted with appropriate safety precautions devised and implemented to eliminate or properly control the electrical hazards involved.



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Lock out the electricity source and display suitable warning notices.

Render the electrical installation dead before work.

Insulating gloves

Registered Electrical Worker

Danger — Work in Progress

Switch Box

On

Off

Suitable working platform should be used when working at height

Form 5

Adopt a Safety Management System

Safety Management System

Registered Electrical Worker

**Relevant references**

**Labour Department**

- Basic Electrical Safety Measures in the Workplaces
- 《電力工作意外致命個案集》(Chinese version only)
- 《地盤意外個案簡介系列 - 水電維修》(Chinese version only)
- Guide for Safety at Work - Safe Use of Electric Plugs
- Code of Practice - Safety and Health at Work for Manual Electric Arc Welding

**Labour Department and Occupational Safety & Health Council**

- Guidance Notes for The Safe Isolation of Electricity Source at Work



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