



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Construction Industry Council Publishes** **“Safety Alert No. 001/13 on Safe Use of Mobile Metal Scaffolds for** **Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works”**

Hong Kong • 13 May 2013 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) today released a new publication entitled “*Safety Alert No. 001/13 on Safe Use of Mobile Metal Scaffolds for Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works*” (Safety Alert). This Safety Alert is aimed at highlighting essential elements for the attention of employers, contractors as well as workers.

#### **Introduction**

Mobile metal scaffolds have been increasingly used for work-at-height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition (RMAA) works. In order to enhance site safety for RMAA works, the Task Force on Work Safety of Repair, Maintenance, Alterations and Additions (RMAA) Sites of the CIC’s Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) has prepared the Safety Alert for reference by the practitioners.

#### **Publication**

Mr. CHEUNG Hau-wai, Chairman of the Com-CSS said, “The importance of mobile metal scaffold safety awareness in RMAA works needs to be emphasised to employers, contractors and construction workers to enhance safety on RMAA sites. The Safety Alert recommends several safety measures that inform parties of good practice to prevent accidents.”

Mr. LI Chi-leung, Chairman of the Task Force on Work Safety of Repair, Maintenance, Alterations and Additions (RMAA) Sites added that employers, contractors and workers should collaborate to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of mobile metal scaffolds, including regular inspections, proper use and maintenance, etc.

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 Safety Alert can be found on P.3 to P.5)



Mobile metal scaffolds (scaffolds) have been increasingly used for work-at-height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition (RMAA) works. However, scaffolds with substandard features or the improper use of scaffolds, are the major causes of accidents resulting in falls from height as well as the collapse or overturning of scaffolds. Employers, contractors and workers undertaking RMAA works are alerted of the following:

## DOs

- ✓ Every part of a scaffold is of sound construction, adequate strength and free from obvious defect.
- ✓ The height to the least base dimension ratios should not be greater than 3.5 and 3 for scaffolds used within and outside buildings respectively. Stabilisers or outriggers should be installed if necessary to ensure the stability.
- ✓ Swivel-type castors with brakes are fitted at the bottom of the scaffolds.
- ✓ Safe access, such as a suitable ladder, is provided and maintained.
- ✓ The working platform on a scaffold is closely planked or boarded with suitable guard-rails and toe-boards provided on every side.
- ✓ Erection, alteration or dismantling of a scaffold should only be conducted by trained workmen with adequate experience and under the immediate supervision of a competent person.
- ✓ Scaffolds are regularly inspected and certified safe by a competent person.
- ✓ Warning notices should be conspicuously displayed on defective scaffolds to alert workers to the prohibition of their use.
- ✓ In addition to avoiding live electrical works at height conducted on the scaffold, suitable protective equipment such as insulating mats should be provided and properly maintained.



## 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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## DON'Ts

- ✗ Don't use a scaffold unless it rests on firm, level ground free from potholes.
- ✗ Don't over-reach from the working platform of a scaffold.
- ✗ Don't use ladders or makeshift devices on top of a scaffold to increase its height.
- ✗ Don't use a scaffold under strong wind or other adverse weather conditions.
- ✗ Don't move a scaffold while workers or heavy equipment / materials are on it.
- ✗ Don't use a defective scaffold.

## Relevant reference:

Labour Department

- Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety



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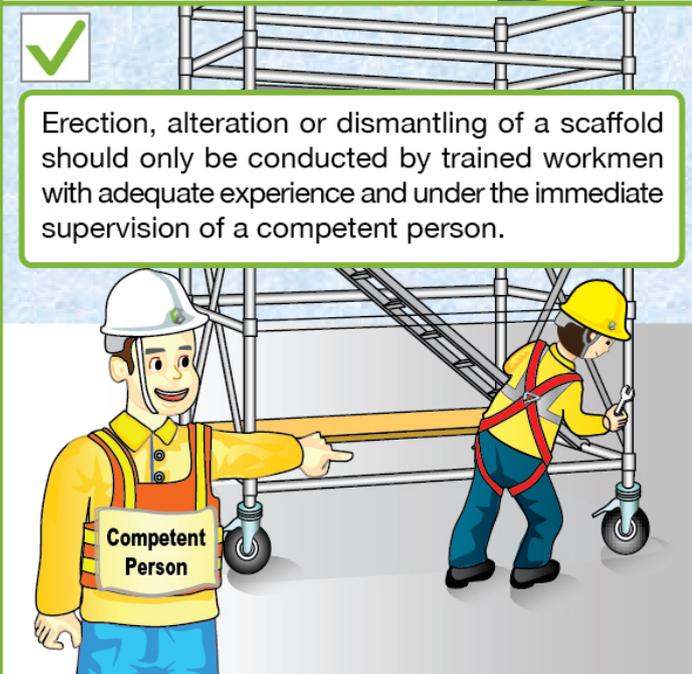


CONSTRUCTION  
INDUSTRY COUNCIL  
建造業議會

# Safe Use of Mobile Metal Scaffolds for Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works

Safety Alert No. 001/13

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