



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Construction Industry Council Publishes
Safety Alert No. 002/16 Safety Precaution for Zika Virus Infection**

Hong Kong · 26 July 2016 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) today released a new publication entitled *Safety Alert No. 002/16 – Safety Precaution for Zika Virus Infection* (Safety Alert).

Zika virus infection is mainly transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. To prevent Zika virus infection at construction sites, the Task Force on Site Safety Incidents under the CIC’s Committee on Construction Safety has prepared this Safety Alert to encourage persons responsible for construction sites and construction site workers to take the following anti-mosquito measures as recommended, such as:

- **Apply** - Construction workers should **apply DEET-containing insect repellent** on clothes or skin according to label instructions.
- **Appoint** - Persons responsible for construction sites should **appoint professional pest control contracts** to carry out mosquito control measure, such as fogging, whenever necessary.
- **Check and remove** - Persons responsible for construction sites and construction workers should **tidy up construction sites regularly**, at least once a week. They should **check for any accumulations of water**, and **remove all water collections** and eliminate the sources.
- **Clear up** - The drainage channel should be **clear up frequently to prevent clogging**.

Ms. Ada FUNG, Chairperson of Committee on Construction Safety said, “At present, there is no effective vaccine against Zika virus infection. To prevent Zika virus infection, construction practitioners are reminded to protect themselves from mosquito bites and help prevent mosquito proliferation at construction sites.”

Mr. Victor KWONG, Chairperson of Task Force on Site Safety Incidents added, “The Ovitrap Index that measures the growth of mosquito that can transmit dengue fever and the Zika virus has exceeded alert level in some regions of Hong Kong recently. To



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reduce the risk of spreading dengue fever and the Zika virus transmission, we urge all construction practitioners to take the anti-mosquito measures listed on the Safety Alert.”

The Safety Alert is available for download on the CIC’s website:

www.cic.hk/cic_data/pdf/about_cic/publications/eng/alert/SA-CSY-002-16-E.pdf.

About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 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 and registration for the construction workforce and serve as a communication channel for Government to solicit advice on all construction-related matters.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.

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



Zika virus infection is mainly transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. To prevent Zika virus infection, persons responsible for construction sites and construction site workers should take the following anti-mosquito measures:

Persons responsible for construction sites should:

- Assign staff for the control and prevention of mosquitoes on site.
- Tidy up the construction site regularly, at least once a week and check for any accumulations of water.
- Remove all water collections and eliminate the source(s).
- Cover all containers that hold water to prevent mosquitoes from accessing the water.
- Fill up or wrap up the vertical poles of the bamboo to prevent accumulations of water.
- Dispose of objects that can contain water, such as empty lunch boxes, cans, disused articles and tyres; into covered container(s) and remove them from site regularly (at least once a week).
- Carry out larviciding at mosquito breeding sources or potential breeding grounds that are inaccessible or could not be eliminated.
- Install mosquito screens on windows and doors.
- Provide construction site workers with appropriate *DEET-containing insect repellent, especially when working in scrubby areas.
- Appoint professional pest control contractors to carry out mosquito control measures, such as fogging, whenever necessary.
- Regularly arrange toolbox training for construction site workers on the prevention of mosquitoes.
- Contact the district pest control offices or Pest Control Advisory Section of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on mosquito control or prevention on technical issues.

Construction workers should:

- Wear light-coloured and long-sleeved clothes and trousers.
- Apply *DEET-containing insect repellent on the clothes or skin according to label instructions.
- Avoid using fragrant cosmetics or skin care products during outdoor activities.
- Tidy up the construction site and check for any accumulations of water.
- Remove all water collections and eliminate the sources.



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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- Change at least every week the water in flower vases and saucers of potted plants to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. The use of saucers should be avoided whenever possible.
- Cover all containers that hold water to prevent mosquito from accessing the water.
- Properly dispose of the articles that are able to contain water such as empty lunch boxes, cans and tyres.
- Avoid keeping used tyres on the site, or otherwise make large holes thereto to prevent water trapping if used tyres are adopted for particular purposes.

Staff working in sites on hills or slopes with scrub:

- Should wear light-coloured, long-sleeved clothes and long trousers.
- Should apply mosquito repellent (with *DEET as the active ingredient) on the clothes or skin according to the label instructions.
- Should kill and repel adult mosquitoes resting on the vegetation in the locale where work to be carried out by using "fumigators":
 - (i) Appoint professional pest control contractors to carry out "fumigation".
 - (ii) Assess the occupational safety and health risks arising from "fumigation" and implement all control measures effectively to minimise the risks.
 - (iii) Carry out the "fumigation" once the staff have reached the locale and before they start performing their work.
 - (iv) Carry out the "fumigation" in and on the periphery of the locale.
 - (v) Select those "fumigators" which only need adding water to the product for releasing the insecticide to kill or repel the mosquitoes
- Should be provided with a water based insecticide spray with knock-down effect for killing adult mosquitoes which may attack them when they are performing their work.
- Must not leave any article which may hold water on the work site.

Relevant Reference:

- For details, please visit the Centre for Health Protection website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/43086.html)
- 預防蚊蟲工具箱訓練教材 - Architectural Services Department

**DEET - apart from DEET, insect repellents with other active ingredients, e.g. IR3535, Icaridin (also known as Picaridin), etc. are also available in the market. When using any insect repellent, contractors and site personnel should follow the label instructions and precautions.*



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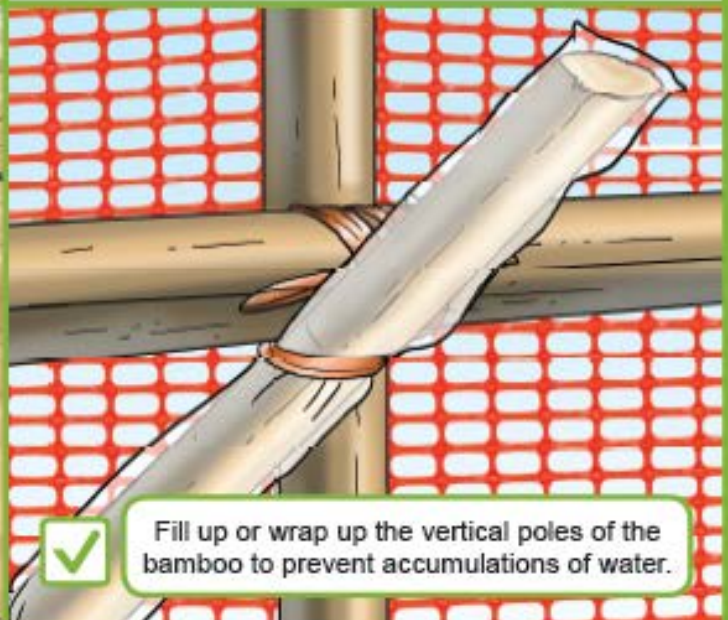
Remove all water collections and eliminate the source(s).



Appoint professional pest control contractor to carry out mosquito control measures.



Clear up the drainage channel to prevent clogging.



Fill up or wrap up the vertical poles of the bamboo to prevent accumulations of water.



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