

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Industry Council Reminds the Industry to Prevent Heat Stroke as Summer Arrives

Hong Kong • 11 June 2023 - Prevention of heatstroke is an important aspect of construction safety. The construction industry responded positively to the Labour Department's Guidance Notes on Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work issued in May. Ir Thomas HO, Chairman of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) visited various sites recently. On Friday, he was joined by Mr. Vincent FUNG, Acting Commissioner for Labour; Mr. CHAN Kim-kwong, CIC Member and Mr. CHOW Luen-kiu, Chairman of Hong Kong Construction Industry Registered Specialists Trade Union Federation in his visit to a construction site in Tseung Kwan O. The group receded the site's heat stroke prevention measures and distributed cooling drinks, fruit and heat stroke prevention equipment to workers and remind workers to stay alert to signs of getting heat stroke.

Ir Thomas HO encouraged the industry to implement measures as suggested by the Guidance Notes on Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work and that clear categorisation of work tasks and guidelines on rest arrangement, as well as appropriate sheltered rest area and cooling supplies should also be in place to protect the wellbeing of workers. Mr. Vincent FUNG said the Labour Department and the construction industry share the same goal of preventing employees from getting heat stroke at work. They will strive to assist the industry in adopting the recommendations in the Guidance Notes and developing appropriate measures to reduce the risk of heat stroke for employees.

As heat waves are expected to prevail, construction sites should prepare proper heat relief measures to help workers prevent heat stroke. Apart from clear guidelines on work task categorisation and rest time arrangement, construction sites may also share real time weather updates to workers, set up sheltered space around sites, distribute cooling snacks, drinks and equipment.

Let us put "Life First, Say No to Heat Stroke!" into action! The CIC is calling on everyone in the construction industry to support heat stroke prevention throughout summer.



Mr. Vincent FUNG, Acting Commissioner for Labour (2nd right), and Ir Thomas HO, Chairman of the Construction Industry Council (1st right), distributing cooling products to workers



Mr. Vincent FUNG, Acting Commissioner for Labour (2nd left); Ir Thomas HO, Chairman of the Construction Industry Council (1st right); and Mr. CHAN Kim-kwong, CIC Member and Chairman of the Hong Kong Construction Sub-contractor Association (2nd right), being briefed by staff on heat stroke preventive measures at the construction site



Mr. Vincent FUNG, Acting Commissioner for Labour (centre), and Ir Thomas HO, Chairman of the Construction Industry Council (1st right), having a look at the ice-maker at the construction site

Photo credit: Labour Department

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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 the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.