



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, October 30, 1972

FURTHER MEASURES TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS

IN SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING INDUSTRIES

The first volume of a guide, setting out safe working practices in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries has been published by the Marine Department.

It has been prepared by a working group comprising representatives from the Marine, Fire Services and Labour departments and shipping, shipbuilding and ship-repairing companies.

The working party was set up by the Director of Marine in September last year following a number of fires and explosions in recent years on board ships, either under construction or repair.

Volume 1 of the "Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing Safety Guide" deals mainly with "Fires and Explosions" and "Entry into Confined Spaces".

It is intended to furnish guidance to dockyards, contractors, shipowners, ship personnel, supervisors and others responsible for setting up safe working practices in the ship-building and ship-repairing industries.

Instructions for workers indicating in simple terms what they should or should not do are also included.

Introducing the guide today, the Acting Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. R. Blacklock, said the original intention was to publish all details about safety working practices in the industries in one full guide.

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Monday, October 30, 1972

- 2 -

As such a publication will have to take four more months to complete, the Marine Department has decided to publish Volume 1 of the guide immediately, as it covers the areas where most of the deaths have occurred.

A number of copies in stencilled form have been prepared for free issue to those directly involved in order to avoid delay.

Mr. Blacklock expressed the hope that the guidance provided will draw attention to the hazards involved in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries and how they may be overcome.

He said the recommendations in the Safety Guide are essentially of a general nature and are intended to provide a sound basis for preparation of instructions appropriate to the particular conditions and circumstances.

In the practical application of the broad principles of accident prevention, however, the human element is perhaps its most important aspect.

He thought that safety training at all levels and regular drills would go a long way towards resolving this problem.

Mr. Blacklock also referred to recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry investigating the fire on board the "Jumbo" floating restaurant in October last year.

One of the recommendations, he said, is to establish an Industrial Safety Division within the Marine Department to deal with safety of working conditions and practices and the precautions to be exercised on board ships.

This recommendation has been accepted by the Government.

/Mr. Blacklock,

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 3 -

Mr. Blacklock, who is also the Chairman of the working party, said: "Initially, it is proposed to set up a unit in the existing Ship Safety Division to deal with ocean-going ships undergoing major repairs in the stream."

He added that a case for this unit has been submitted to the Government who is studying the implication of the "pilot" scheme.

Mr. Blacklock also disclosed that the Marine Court investigating the fire on board the "Seawise University" in January this year has endorsed the recommendations made by the "Jumbo" Commission.

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ANTI-DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS CAMPAIGN

During the week ending on October 21, a total of 15,370 doses of the combined anti-diphtheria and tetanus vaccine was administered, according to statistics released today by the Medical and Health Department.

Of these, 968 doses were administered on Hong Kong Island, 6,469 in Kowloon, and 7,933 in the New Territories.

In the two weeks since the campaign began on October 9, a total of 35,246 doses has been administered.

The campaign will continue for the rest of the year. Free vaccine is available at all government maternal and child health centres and clinics.

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/4

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 4 -

FIRST ALL-WEATHER SWIMMING POOL TO OPEN

The first multi-million dollar all-weather swimming pool complex at Morrison Hill will be officially opened by Sir Douglas Clague, the Chairman of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, tomorrow (October 31).

The Morrison Hill Complex is situated in Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, covering an area of about 2.5 acres. It will be opened to the public on Wednesday (November 1).

It consists of one enclosed and heated 50-metre pool, a paddling pool for children and another outdoor one for youngsters. It is capable of accommodating 1,200 swimmers at a time.

The 50-metre pool (50 m. x 21 m.) is built to Olympic competition standards with a grandstand and galleries for about 500 spectators.

The heated pool has a capacity of 380,000 gallons of water and its depth is from 4½ feet to 6½ feet. The water will be heated to a temperature of 24°C during the cold months from December to March.

An interior ventilation system for the whole complex has been installed for summer. Changing rooms, showers and lavatories are provided in the building.

The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club has donated over \$8 million to build and equip the complex, which was designed and its construction supervised, by Mr. Sam Lim, a private architect of Messrs, Leigh and Orange, Hong Kong.

The Morrison Hill Swimming Pool complex will be the sixth of its kind to be managed by the Urban Services Department, on behalf of the Urban Council.

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Monday, October 30, 1972

- 5 -

The other five are the Victoria Park, Kowloon Tsui, Morse Park, Kwun Tong and Lei Cheng Uk swimming pools, which have all proved very popular in summer.

A spokesman for the department said admission fees for entry to the new pool on November 1 will be 40 cents for each person below the age of 14, and 70 cents for those above; but consideration is now being given to the level of charges to be levied during the winter months when the heating system will be in operation. The new fees will be announced later.

More heated swimming pools are being planned. The next one will be the district pool complex in Hung Hom.

Meanwhile the Urban Council has announced new opening and closing times for its swimming pool complexes from Wednesday (November 1).

The Morrison Hill pool will open from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; 12 noon to 5 p.m.; and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Victoria Park, Morse Park, Kwun Tong and Lei Cheng Uk complexes from 7 a.m. to 12 noon; and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and the Kowloon Tsai Pool from 7.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.; and 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the opening ceremony covered. The ceremony will take place at 3.00 p.m. A G.I.S. officer will be on hand to assist the Press.

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/6

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 6 -

APPLICATIONS FOR SHOPS AT PAK TIN

The first application for an alternative trading space in Pak Tin Estate has been received from one of the 44 shop tenants affected by the first phase of the Shek Kip Mei Rehousing Scheme.

A spokesamn for the rehousing operation office at Pak Tin, which handles such applications, said he expected that more would be forthcoming in the next few days.

"We have been receiving enquiries from a number of interested shop tenants about the reprovisioning offer," he said.

The tenants have to vacate their premises in early 1973 to make way for the conversion work, but ample time has been given to them to make the necessary arrangements.

Referring to a newspaper report criticising details of the reprovisioning offer for shop owners, the spokesman refused the suggestion that the tenants were not getting a fair deal.

"In fact the reprovisioning offer has received the most careful consideration and thorough deliberation and it has been worked out to meet the best interests of the shop tenants," he said.

The spokesman pointed out that it was essential to adopt the foot-for-foot basis in the reprovisioning offer because firstly shops in the Pak Tin Estate were much larger in area than those at Shek Kip Mei Resettlement Estate and secondly the number of shops at Pak Tin was much less.

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Monday, October 30, 1972

- 7 -

"It is therefore not possible to offer shops at Pak Tin to every shop tenant at Shek Kip Mei," he said.

As to the suggestion that the tenants be allowed to move back to their existing shops after the conversion of the block, the spokesman said this was not possible because the number of shops in the new Shek Kip Mei Estate will have to be reduced.

He said that the present number of small shops in the estate was so large that many of them were actually going out of business because of competition.

At Pak Tin, shop-keepers will be able to maintain their business at a satisfactory level because all the shops have been designated for specific trades and the number will be less.

Although the rentals at Pak Tin were slightly higher than those at Shek Kip Mei, they were only half or one third of those in private tenements in the neighbourhood. In addition, no premium is charged.

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/8

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 8 -

APPLICATION FORMS FOR DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCES

Applicants for driving licences and vehicle registrations are advised to obtain the relevant forms from City District Offices to avoid congestion at the two Licensing Offices of the Transport Department.

Making the appeal today, a spokesman for the department said the offices at Rumsey Street and Pui Ching Road had been heavily congested since the announcement of a "crash programme" to speed up driving tests.

He said the public could do much to relief this congestion and also save themselves time if they obtain the blank forms from the CDO's first before presenting them to the offices for completion of the licensing procedures.

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/9

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 9 -

EXHIBITION TO FEATURE WORKS BY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CHINESE ARTISTS

Chinese artists from a number of countries have been invited to take part in an exhibition of contemporary prints being organised by the City Museum and Art Gallery.

The exhibition is open to all artists of Chinese nationality or descent, residing in or outside Hong Kong.

A number of entries have already been received from both local and overseas artists and the closing date will be next Saturday, (November 4).

All entries will be selected by a panel of judges, which include Mr. John Hadfield, head of the Design Department of the Hong Kong Polytechnic, Mr. Kwong Yeu-ting a well-known local painter and printmaker, and Dr. Li Chu-tsing, noted Chinese art historian and now visiting professor to the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The exhibition will be held early next year.

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/10

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 10 -

IMPROVEMENTS TO KOWLOON POSTAL SORTING OFFICE

Work will begin soon on expanding and improving the facilities at the Kowloon Postal Sorting Office in Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.

The work involves alterations to the main building to cope with increased parcel traffic and to deal with the problem of rat infestation and excessive heat.

Costing more than \$440,000, the building will be extended to provide space for the public and a parcel acceptance section.

It is also intended to provide air-conditioning in the sorting office.

In addition, a transformer house will be built and a new 25-foot-wide run-in will be provided for container vehicles collecting and delivering parcels to the sorting office.

Since the peak period for outgoing parcels usually occurs between September and November, construction work has been timed to begin in early December and to be completed by August next year.

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/11

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 11 -

IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT CENTRAL INDEX

Members of the public seeking registration at the Social Welfare Department for aid, emergency or otherwise, are advised that the central index system now operating requires identity card numbers and names of all members of an applicant's family.

This system is a refinement of the previous requirement for the name and identity card number of the applicant alone.

Mr. Joseph Lee Chiu-ming, Deputy Secretary (Operations), explained that the additional information now being sought is intended to enable a central index system to be set up.

This index will be retained within the department's Payments Control Section where payment records of all public assistance cases are centralised and audited.

"It will guard against duplicate claims for cash assistance, and will be available for reference by all units of the department," Mr. Lee said.

At present there are 15 field units and it is theoretically possible, in the absence of sufficient safeguards, for public money to be claimed by the same family from more than one unit. But the central index is intended to prevent such duplication by means of these detailed cross references.

"I urge applicants to bear in mind the new requirements, and to have ready the identity cards of all family members," Mr. Lee stressed.

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/12

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 12 -

BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared No. 39 Sai Street in Central District to be in a dangerous condition and No. 37 Sai Street liable to become dangerous.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that both of these three storey pre-war buildings had been under observation for some years, during which time minor repairs have been carried out under order.

Following a recent inspection it was noted that the brickwork of a main front wall pier of No. 39 Sai Street was badly bulged at the first floor level and the ground floor pier immediately underneath fractured.

As there is the possibility of a local collapse, which would endanger the whole building, an order requiring demolition will be issued.

It is considered that due to fractures in the party wall, No. 37 Sai Street is liable to become dangerous during or after the demolition of No. 39.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on December 13, 1972 were posted today.

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/13

Monday, October 30, 1972

- 13 -

LADY MACLEHOSE VISITS WONG TAI SIN

Note to Editors: Lady MacLehose will go to Block 25 of the Wong Tai Sin Resettlement Estate at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) to visit the Save the Children Fund Wong Tai Sin Disabled Children's Centre.

She is going to the Centre in her capacity as President of the Hong Kong Save the Children Fund Committee.

Lady MacLehose will be shown around the Centre by the Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. D. Newbiggin, and the Field Director, Miss P.J. Atkins.

You are invited to have the visit covered. Mr. D. Leung of the Government Information Services will be present to assist the press.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.