



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, June 14, 1973

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REDUCING ACCIDENT RISKS IN SHIPBUILDING AND  
SHIPREPAIRING INDUSTRIES

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A comprehensive manual of safe working practices has been produced by the Marine Department in an effort to reduce the risk of accidents in Hong Kong's shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries.

The guide aims at establishing a high degree of safety throughout these industries. It lists a wide variety of potential hazards and furnishes practical advice on ways to overcome them.

It was prepared by a working party comprising representatives of the Marine, Labour and Fire Services departments, and shipping, shipbuilding and ship-repair companies.

The working party was set up in September 1971 following a number of explosions and fires in recent years on board ships, either under construction or repair.

The new code of safe working practices incorporates an earlier volume released in October last year, and is being published as one consolidated volume.

Following a recommendation by the Commission of Inquiry which investigated the fire on board the "Jumbo" floating restaurant in October 1971, an Industrial Safety Division is to be set up within the Marine Department.

This recommendation was endorsed by the Marine Court investigating the "Seawise University" fire last year, and accepted by the government.

/Meanwhile, .....

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Meanwhile, two shipping safety officers have been appointed to deal with safety of working conditions and practices and the precautions to be exercised on board ships. And others are being recruited.

New legislation was introduced in March this year providing that no repairs on vessels over 300 tons can be undertaken without prior permission from the Director of Marine. Vessels in the precincts of a dockyard or floating dry dock are at present excluded from the legislation.

Failure to comply with this renders a person liable on conviction, to a maximum fine of \$4,000 and six months' imprisonment.

The recommendations contained in the guide are to form the basis on which permission will be given for ship repairs, in addition to any other conditions the Director of Marine may impose.

In order to achieve an acceptable standard of safety, it is imperative that all those concerned in the shipping, shipbuilding and ship-repair industries obtain copies of the guide.

Ocean-going vessels arriving in Hong Kong for repair for the first time will also require the safety guide.

Copies of the guide will be on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, and at the Marine Department reception counter as from tomorrow (Friday) at \$3 a copy.

Written in simple English and illustrated, the guide consists of 11 sections, each dealing with a particular aspect of ship safety. The sections are further sub-divided into chapters specifically for management, supervisors and workers.

/Translation .....

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Translation of the code into Chinese is now underway and is expected to be completed within six months.

Instructions for supervisors and workers will be extracted and printed separately in the form of pocket size booklets which will be distributed free of charge.

Copies of the English version of the supervisors booklet will be ready by about July 1. The workers booklet, which will be in Chinese only, will be available after the full guide in Chinese has been published.

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COMMISSION OF INQUIRY CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE PUBLIC

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The newly appointed Commission of Inquiry is calling for public assistance in its investigations into the circumstances in which a person, being investigated for alleged corruption, was able to leave Hong Kong.

Anyone who may have information relevant to this matter is urged to report the details as soon as possible to the Commissioner, the Hon. Mr. Justice Blair-Kerr, Supreme Court, Hong Kong.

The Commission stresses that it has to report to the Governor on the first term of reference within three weeks and for this reason representations must be submitted as a matter of urgency.

The Commissioner has been asked to report to the Governor on the second term of reference, which relates to the effectiveness of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, within three months.

Representations on this aspect are also required as early as possible.

The inquiry will involve the recording of evidence and will be held in Mr. Justice Blair-Kerr's own court in the Supreme Court Building.

Evidence given by any person before the Commissioner will be privileged, and will not be admissible against the person giving evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings, except where he is charged with an offence under the Perjury Ordinance or for any action which would amount to contempt of court if the proceedings were an ordinary trial.

The full terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry are:

- (a) To report on the circumstances in which a person whose prosecution under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance was, at an advanced stage of consideration, able to leave Hong Kong.

/(b) In the .....

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(b) In the light of experience of the working of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, and having regard also to the need to preserve basic human rights under the law, to

- (i) report on the effectiveness of the Ordinance and to suggest amendments;
- (ii) to suggest any other changes in current arrangements considered necessary.

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IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES FOR PEOPLE WITH "RIGHT TO LAND"

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The Director of Immigration, Mr. W.E. Collard, today urged people with the right to land in Hong Kong to apply for an appropriate endorsement in their travel document to facilitate immigration procedures when travelling abroad.

Without the proper endorsement, he said, these persons would be required to prove their claim every time they wished to travel abroad and this might result in unnecessary delay.

Mr. Collard said it was up to those who claimed the right to land to prove their claim.

They could do this by applying for an endorsement in their travel document on production of documentary proof of their right and payment of a \$5 fee.

Those who have the right to land in Hong Kong are British subjects who were born, naturalised, or registered in Hong Kong, or are married to or the child of such a person; and "United Kingdom belongers" and "Chinese residents" who have resided in Hong Kong continuously for seven years.

Application forms for a right to land endorsement may be obtained from all Immigration Department offices. Copies will be sent by post on request which may be made by telephoning 5-456065, extensions 200, 236, or 237.

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EMPLOYMENT SURVEY IN INDUSTRY

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A survey of employment and vacancies in registered and recorded industrial establishments for the second quarter of 1973 is being carried out by the Census and Statistics Department on behalf of the Labour Department.

Printed employment return cards were sent to managements of all industrial establishments which have been registered with or recorded by the Labour Department on June 11, 1973. They were requested to provide the information sought as of tomorrow (Friday) and to return promptly the cards in the reply-paid envelopes attached, to the Census and Statistics Department on or before next Tuesday (June 19).

The numbers employed and vacancies in each of the main industries in Hong Kong will be compiled from the information collected. These statistics will provide up-to-date information on employment as well as employment trends over the years.

Mr. K.W.J. Topley, the Commissioner for Census and Statistics, said it was hoped that all managements who had received the cards would complete them accurately and return them promptly to his department.

During the last survey carried out by the Labour Department in March this year, the overall response rate was 63 per cent, but the response from the larger industrial establishments was 100 per cent.

"This could be further improved if all establishments, particularly the smaller ones, would respond promptly to the survey", Mr. Topley said.

He stressed that the information provided would be kept strictly confidential and would only be used for the preparation of statistical summaries. The cards will be destroyed under supervision after the relevant information has been extracted and summarised.

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NEW GUIDE TO TOURISTS ON LANTAU

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A special tourist guide for visitors to Lantau Island, highlighting the various features of the island, has been erected at Silvermine Bay.

Financed by the Hong Kong Tourist Association and designed in conjunction with the District Office, Islands, the map is the first of its kind to be built in the New Territories for both local visitors and overseas tourists.

The map board, measuring about seven feet high and six feet wide, is protected from the weather by an overhanging roof finished with Chinese tiles.

All the land areas, including islands adjacent to Lantau, are depicted in raised moulded concrete. Place names, roads, paths, picnic spots, temples, beaches, public telephones, police and fire stations and hospitals are clearly marked.

Tomorrow (Friday) a ceremony will be held at Silvermine Bay during which the Chairman of the Mui Wo Rural Committee, Mr. Tsang Lin, and the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourist Association, Mr. John Payne, will jointly unveil the map board.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a representative to cover the opening ceremony to be held at Silvermine Bay Ferry Pier at 11 a.m. tomorrow (Friday). The launch "Sir Cecil Clementi" will take the press to Mui Wo, leaving the Marine Department Pier (Central) at 9.45 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided. Mr. Hanny Lee, Assistant Information Officer of N.T.A., will be present to help the press.

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NEW POST OFFICE ON CHEUNG CHAU

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A new post office will open on Monday (June 18) to provide better postal services for residents of Cheung Chau Island.

Situated at 12, Tung Wan Road, the new office will have all types of postal facilities, including a 10 cent stamp vending machine, which will operate day and night.

Insured letters and boxes, however, will not be accepted.

On Monday at 10 a.m., the Chairman of the Cheung Chau Rural Committee, Mr. Chau Li Ping, will officiate at the opening ceremony.

The existing post office at School Road will be closed after business on Saturday (June 16).

The opening hours of the new office will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

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RESIDENTIAL LAND FOR SALE AT KWUN TONG

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Two areas of Crown land in Kwun Tong, for residential development will be put up for auction on Friday, June 29.

Both lots are in Kung Lok Road - one has an area of 22,580 square feet and the other 20,520 square feet.

Another lot of Crown land, with an area of 1,107 square feet, in Shanghai Street will be sold for non-industrial purposes at the same auction.

The auction will be held at 2.30 p.m. in the Lecture Room, 8th floor, City Hall.

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FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

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About 80 photographs by well-known contemporary French masters in photography will be put on display in the City Museum and Art Gallery tomorrow (Friday) for one month.

They are the works of six famous photographers who were all born at the beginning of the 20th century.

A spokesman for the City Museum and Art Gallery says these men have witnessed the strains on human society under the forces of social, economical and political changes. Their world-wide experience and "rich feelings" are expressed through the medium of photography and they have faithfully recorded the situation of man in these "dynamic years".

The exhibition is jointly presented by the Urban Council and the Alliance Francaise de Hong Kong.

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PASSING OUT PARADE FOR FIREMEN

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A passing out parade for 140 firemen and ambulancemen will be held at the Fire Services Training School at Fan Kam Road, Pat Heung, New Territories, at 10 a.m. on Saturday (June 16).

Major General E.J.S. Burnett, Deputy Commander, Land Forces, will inspect the men on parade.

The ceremony will be followed by a display of fire service equipment and fire-fighting techniques.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the event covered.

The Fire Services have arranged a press vehicle (School Bus No. AM2124) to leave the Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station, Canton Road, for the school at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday (June 16).

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Release Time: 7.45 p.m.