

# Appeal against rejection of licence renewal of concrete batching plant at 20 Tung Yuen Street, Yau Tong dismissed

The Air Pollution Control Appeal Board (the Appeal Board) today (November 22) dismissed an appeal lodged by the China Concrete Co. Limited against the refusal of its application for renewal of a Specified Process Licence (SPL) for a concrete batching plant (CBP) at 20 Tung Yuen Street, Yau Tong, by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The EPD welcomed the ruling by the Appeal Board.

A spokesman for the EPD said that the department has stringent requirements and monitoring regarding the operation of CBPs, and will not tolerate any operation that adversely affects the environment. In previous inspections and monitoring, EPD enforcement officers repeatedly found that the CBP at 20 Tung Yuen Street had serious dust emission incidents that caused air pollution. The plant failed to demonstrate its capability to provide, install and effectively operate the necessary practicable measures for preventing pollutant emissions and nuisances caused to nearby residents. The department thereby refused the application for renewal of the SPL for the plant on April 8, 2022. The plant then lodged an appeal to the Appeal Board on April 28, 2022. According to Section 9(b)(ii) of the Air Pollution Control (Specified Processes) Regulations (Cap. 311F), the CBP's SPL shall be considered as effective until the appeal was disposed of.

The spokesman said that as the Appeal Board had dismissed the CBP's appeal, the CBP's SPL will cease to be in force immediately accordingly to the Air Pollution Control (Specified Processes) Regulations. The EPD has issued a letter to the plant requesting it to cease the cement works (including concrete production) under the Specified Process immediately. The EPD will continue to deploy officers to closely monitor the CBP, and will initiate prosecution actions if evidence is collected.