

Development Bureau imposes regulating action on contractor involved in fatal industrial incident at private construction site in Fo Tan

A spokesman for the Development Bureau (DEVB) said today (January 27) that the contractor involved in the fatal industrial incident happened on January 24 at a private construction site in Fo Tan was under the List of Approved Contractors for Public Works (the List).

The DEVB, being the party to procure services for public works, attaches great importance to the site safety performance of all construction sites under the purview of contractors on the List (regardless of whether the sites are public works construction sites or not). The DEVB issued notification to the contractor concerned today to suspend it from tendering for public works contracts in the buildings category with immediate effect pursuant to the regulating regime. The contractor concerned has to conduct an independent safety audit to review its safety management system. Taking cognisance of the outcome of the independent safety audit, the contractor is required to submit an improvement action plan and implement improvement measures, with a view to demonstrating that it has an effective safety management system before the lifting of the suspension from tendering can be considered. The suspension from tendering is not only confined to future tender exercises, but is also applicable to tender exercises with procedures initiated but not concluded.

The Labour Department is investigating this industrial incident and will handle it in accordance with the law. Subject to the investigation findings, the DEVB may impose further regulating actions on the contractor concerned later on, including extension of the period of suspension from tendering for public works contracts and even removal from the List.