



## **Systemic Safety Alert**

### **Fire Safety in Catering Kitchens**

#### **Major systemic safety problems**

A fire in a kitchen of a catering establishment can endanger the safety of employees of the establishment or nearby workers, resulting in serious injuries and fatalities. The occurrence of related accidents involves the following major systemic safety problems:

- failure to conduct task-specific fire risk assessments for kitchen processes, cooker operations, and fuel storage, and failure to formulate safe work methods in accordance with those risk assessments;
- failure to implement safe work methods and adopt necessary risk control measures for fire prevention;
- failure to properly maintain electrical appliances and installations;
- failure to provide and properly maintain fire service installations and equipment;
- failure to ensure that all means of escape are kept in good condition and free from obstruction; and
- failure to provide all employees with adequate safety information, instruction, training and supervision.

#### **Accident prevention measures**

Proprietors of catering establishments should:

- (i) appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, particularly fire or explosion hazards arising from the operation of gas cooking appliances, cooking processes involving high oil temperatures, fuel storage, and the use of electrical installations and apparatus, taking into account the nature of work, the work environment, and kitchen activities;
- (ii) formulate safe work methods based on risk assessment results and adopt necessary control measures, including but not limited to:



- if gas cooking appliances are used, ensuring they meet safety standards, and are installed and periodically maintained by Registered Gas Installers;
  - developing safe operating and emergency response instructions for gas cooking appliances in accordance with the manufacturers' user manuals;
  - developing safe operating and emergency response instructions for high-temperature oil cooking to prevent hot oil burns and spontaneous ignition caused by oil reaching its auto-ignition temperature;
  - cleaning walls, exhaust hoods, and ductings regularly to remove accumulated grease and prevent fires;
  - determining safe quantities and designated location for fuel storage (e.g., LPG, including empty cylinders); and
  - ensuring electrical circuits, wiring, plugs and sockets are correctly fused, in good condition, not overloaded, and regularly maintained by Registered Electrical Workers.
- (iii) arrange regular testing and maintenance for all fire service installations and equipment to ensure they remain in good working order at all times;
- (iv) ensure that all means of escape are kept in good condition and free from obstruction, leading to safe places at all times;
- (v) devise and implement emergency procedures, and conduct regular fire drills to ensure that employees can safely evacuate the workplace in the event of a fire;
- (vi) establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly implemented, followed and maintained.

Registered Safety Auditors (RSAs) should take into account these systemic safety problems and accident prevention measures in executing safety audits functions.

\*\*\*\*\*



職業安全及健康部

**Occupational Safety and Health Branch**

勞工處

**Labour Department**



### **DISCLAIMER**

This Systemic Safety Alert is issued to draw the attention of interested parties to the relevant systemic safety problems and accident prevention measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar works activities. The material contained in this Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in this Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use the information contained herein.