



## Work Safety Alert Explosion of a Steam Boiler

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2013
2. **Place of Accident :** A bean product factory in Yuen Long
3. **Summary :**

A steam boiler being used for manufacturing bean product in the factory suddenly exploded, resulting in the death of a worker and injury of four workers.

### 4. **Work Safety Alert for Owners/Employers :**

Owners/employers undertaking any work process involving the operation of a boiler in which steam is generated under pressure greater than atmospheric pressure must ensure that:

- the boiler is registered in accordance with the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Ordinance (BPVO);
- a boiler inspector (an Appointed Examiner under BPVO) is appointed to examine and test the boiler and its auxiliary equipment before use, and periodically thereafter, for the issuance of a certificate of fitness;
- the boiler is not used unless a valid certificate of fitness has been issued;
- safe working procedures for the use and operation of the boiler, based on relevant risk assessments, are formulated;
- the boiler is operated under the direct supervision of a competent person who possesses a valid and relevant certificate of competency;



- the boiler and its auxiliary equipment are properly maintained and operated at a pressure below the maximum permissible working pressure;
- workers are provided with necessary information, instruction and training on the safe use and operation of the boiler; and
- implementation of the above safety measures are strictly monitored.

## 5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice for Owners of Boilers and Pressure Vessels](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Brief Accident Cases of Boilers and Pressure Vessels in Hong Kong](#)<sup>1</sup>

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### DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the 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 the 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 of the information on the Alert.

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view the document