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Building Engineering Division (#05-00)

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Dear Sirs

REMOVAL OF COLUMN STARTER BARS WITHOUT QUALIFIED PERSON'S APPROVAL

Recently, we have come across 2 incidents in which the builder indiscriminately cut off some column starter bars without the knowledge of the qualified person. In one case, the column starter bars were not properly aligned with the slot holes of the precast columns above. The builder simply cut and removed some of these starter bars to facilitate the erection of precast columns. In another project, there were some eccentricities in the pile foundation due to setting out errors. The builder cut off some of the column starter bars, so as to enable the erection of the columns in the positions shown on the approved plans.

As the removal of the starter bars could have adverse implications on the structural design and integrity of the building, they should not be removed or altered without the knowledge and prior approval of the qualified person. We would appreciate it if you could inform your members about the contents of this letter and advise them to ensure that construction works (especially those affecting structural safety) should be carried out with utmost care and professionalism.

Yours faithfully

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for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL

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