

This document is a translation of the original assessment in Swedish by SHK of the response to the recommendation. In case of discrepancies between this translation and the Swedish original text, the Swedish text shall prevail in the interpretation of the assessment.

National Board of Housing, Building and Planning
Box 534
37123 Karlskrona

SHK's assessment of the recommendation response from the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning

On 29 July 2021, the Swedish Accident Investigation Authority (SHK) published the final report RO 2021:01, which addresses the collapse of the roof of a sports hall in Kiruna, Norrbotten County on 7 March 2020.

A total of five safety recommendations were issued in this report, one of which was directed at the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (RO 2021:01 R2). The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning was recommended to take necessary action for the purpose of achieving and maintaining sufficient safety with respect to the load-bearing capacity of buildings. Such action can, for example, include changes to regulations and guidance.

The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning submitted a response to SHK's safety recommendation on 19 October 2021. The response indicates that the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning shares SHK's assessment that there are systemic shortcomings in the regulations for the planning and building process from a safety perspective and that there is a significant risk of building collapses as a result. The board has reported the action it intends to take and has, among other things, stated that there is the potential to develop a number of guidance documents. According to the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, any regulatory changes may be affected by the recommendations SHK has directed at the Swedish Government. The board therefore intended to hold off on taking any action within the authority it has. With regard to any legislative changes that may be of relevance, the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning has stated that it intends to await any inquiry that the Government could initiate as a consequence of the recommendations directed at the Government.

SHK has subsequently received information to the effect that the Government decided on 25 May 2022 on the terms of reference of a commission of inquiry into enhanced construction inspection in order to prevent serious personal injuries (Dir. 2022:43). These terms of reference state that a commission of inquiry shall be appointed in order to not only investigate and submit proposals for how enhanced inspection can be introduced to ensure that certain technical properties are fulfilled, but also to investigate whether further regulation of certification bodies

activities are required in the planning and building regulations. The aims of the inquiry include preventing deficiencies in constructions leading to accidents, especially those that result in serious personal injuries.

The final report of this inquiry is to be published on 29 September 2023.

SHK makes the assessment that the action that has been taken implements the recommendation issued to the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and the response is therefore deemed satisfactory.

(Concluded – satisfactory response)

Best regards,

Kristina Börjevik Kovaniemi
Chair Accident Investigations