

**Construction Industry Council**

**Committee on Construction Site Safety**

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The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee on Construction Site Safety was held on Friday, 12 December 2008 at 2:30 pm at Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central.

Present:	Thomas KWOK	(TK)	Chairman
	CHOI Chun-wa	(CWC)	
	Thomas HO	(TH)	
	KO Jan-ming	(JMK)	
	WAN Koon-sun	(KSW)	
	Au Choi-kai	(CKA)	
	James BLAKE	(JB)	Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation
	TSANG Chiu-kwan	(CKT)	The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
	NG Kwok-kwan	(KKN)	Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees' General Union
	Anthony CHAN	(AnCN)	Hong Kong Construction Association
	Philip CHAN	(PC)	Hong Kong Institute of Architects
	PANG Long	(PL)	Construction Site Workers General Union
	William SIU	(WS)	Hong Kong Bar-Bending Contractors Association
	Charles WONG	(CWG)	Construction Industry Council Training Academy
	TANG Wah-shing	(WST)	Occupational Safety and Health Council
	Dominic LAM	(DL)	Hong Kong Federation of Insurers
	Francis WONG	(FW)	Hong Kong Polytechnic University
	Terry CHING	(TCG)	Representing Ada FUNG
	LEUNG Man-ho	(MHL)	Development Bureau
	TSO Sing-hin	(SHT)	Labour Department
	LEUNG Siu-man	(SML)	Buildings Department
	TSUI Wai	(TW)	Drainage Services Department
In Attendance :	Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
	Alex LEUNG	(AL)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 1
	Claudia AU	(CA)	Manager (Council Services) 1
	TAO Kei-hung	(KHT)	Chief Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1

Rico CHEUNG	(RC)	Assistant Secretary for Development (Policy & Development) 3
Kelly WONG (for agenda item 7.3)	(KW)	Hong Kong Mediation Council (HKMC)
Joanne WONG (for agenda item 7.3)	(JWG)	Hong Kong Federation of Insurers
Walter FOO (for agenda item 7.4)	(WF)	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department
George LING (for agenda item 7.4)	(GL)	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department
KUOK Hoi-sang (for agenda item 7.4)	(HSK)	The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association
CHAN Wing-cheung (for agenda item 7.4)	(WCC)	Housing Department
Dick CHAN (for agenda item 7.4)	(DC)	Housing Department
Damon SO (for agenda item 7.5)	(DS)	Lovells

Apologies :	Stanley HUI	(SH)	
	Ada FUNG	(AF)	Housing Department
	LAU Chi-keung	(CKeL)	Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
	Ros LAM	(RL)	Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
	YU Koon-ching	(KCY)	Hong Kong Safety Supervisors Association

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Action**

#### **7.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting**

Members took note of Progress Report CIC/CSS/M/006/08 and approved the progress report of the last meeting held on 14 August 2008.

#### **7.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

Paragraph 27 (a) The reviewing of the site safety training requirements for various types of construction personnel would be reported under agenda item 7.9.

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Paragraph 27 (b) The Informal Task Force on Construction Design and Management (CDM) has been established. The progress of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be reported under agenda item 7.8.

Paragraph 27 (c) Discussion on the feasibility of mandating the Pay For Safety Scheme would be conducted under agenda item 7.5.

Paragraph 27 (d) Recent developments regarding the proposed study on the ways for detecting welding defects in the mast sections of tower cranes would be discussed under agenda item 7.11.

**7.3 New Insurance Mediation Scheme**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CSS/P/038/08. A representative from the Hong Kong Mediation Council presented to Members the Scheme as a voluntary, non-binding, private dispute resolution process. As its advantages included time and cost savings for settling disputes in comparison with the litigation process, the Scheme could be an alternative means for settling personal injuries disputes of a less serious nature. Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) was suggested to lead an informal working group and deliberate with HKMC/HKFI and relevant Members for considering the applicability of employing the Scheme in the industry.

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*[KW and JWG left the meeting at this juncture.]*

**7.4 Lift Incident in Tai Po on 25 October 2008**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CSS/P/039/08. Representatives from the Electrical & Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) presented to Members the results of laboratory examinations, the scenario of the incident and the recommended preventive measures to be taken. Members suggested that quality training on various lift models for maintenance staff and lift engineers, close monitoring of maintenance works, avoidance of bundle-tendering for

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maintenance contract, stipulations to use replacement parts from original manufacturers etc, would be useful measures for maintaining quality of maintenance service and therefore preventing similar incidents.

EMSD agreed to keep the Committee informed on any further progress of its investigation and recommendation while the Committee would keep in view possible measures, e.g. training and registration, that could be implemented to enhance safety.

*[JMK left the meeting at 4:05pm. WF, GL, HSK, WCC, DC, CWC and PC left the meeting at the end of agenda item 7.4]*

**7.5 Legal Advice on Legislation of Pay For Safety Scheme (PFSS)**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CSS/P/040/08. The legal advisor of CIC presented to Members his analysis and suggestions on possible legislation of PFSS.

Members supported that the principle of PFSS was to remove the competitive element from the tendering process and to ensure that adequate funds have been allocated for safety items. One of the recommended measures was to amend the CIC Ordinance for expanding the power of the Secretary for Development so that regulations, including compliance of CIC Guidelines on adopting PFSS, could be made.

**All to note**

To encourage the adoption of PFSS in private works contracts, Members opined that the government and public organizations should take the lead in adopting PFSS in their works contracts, and relevant organizations should publicize the reduction of accident rates of those works projects which adopted PFSS over those that did not. In this connection, HKCA and LD were requested to provide relevant data on PFSS for the Committee's information.

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*[DS left the meeting at this juncture.]*

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7.6 **Request for Preparation of Practice Notes on Installation of Gondolas in New Residential Buildings**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CSS/P/041/08. As height restriction should in general not be an impediment to the installation of gondolas, a letter would be finalized, subject to clearance by CIC Members, to be sent to BD and distributed to LandsD, PlanD and ArchSD requesting the preparation of Practice Notes for such installation.

**CIC  
Secretariat**

7.7 **Progress Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting on Informal Task Force on Permanent Safety Features**

Members took note of the Information Paper CIC/CSS/P/042/08. The Task Force was preparing a paper to substantiate the rationale in requesting relevant Government Departments for GFA exemptions for service platforms of outdoor units. Besides, a Task Group for developing technical guidelines for Cast-in Anchor Device led by Mr LAU Chi-kin has been established.

7.8 **Progress Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on Task Force on Construction Design and Management**

Members took note of the Information Paper CIC/CSS/P/043/08. The Task Force had deliberated work plans for developing the CDM Guidelines.

7.9 **Summary Report of Informal Meeting on Site Safety Training**

Members took note of the Information Paper CIC/CSS/P/044/08. CICTA was refining training competencies requirements for respective levels of site contractors' and consultants' management and supervisory staff. Further liaison with industry professional organizations and tertiary institutions to strengthen the curriculum in safety courses was still in progress. An informal task force led by CWG would be established in due course to study the way forward.

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7.10 **Progress of Activities of Informal Task Force on Safety of Tower Cranes**

Members took note of the Information Paper CIC/CSS/P/045/08. The Task Force was in the progress of reviewing contents of the Guidelines on Safety of Tower Cranes and had planned to publish a revised version of it in mid-2009 (one year after the issue of the first version).

AnCN reported that a HKCA Seminar on “CIC Guidelines on Safety of Tower Cranes and Its Implications with Project Illustrations” was held on 10 December 2008 with wide industry support. Deliberations and clarifications on the contents of the Guidelines which was issued in June 2008 had been made with industry personnel at the seminar. HKCA would consolidate comments received to the Task Force for considering incorporation into the aforementioned revised version of the Guidelines.

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7.11 **Defect Detection and Risk Mitigation for Structural Failure of Mast Section of Tower Cranes**

Members took note of the Information Paper CIC/CSS/P/046/08. At a meeting held on 19 September 2008 attended by representatives from HKCA, LD, OSHC, DEVB, CICTA and the CIC Secretariat, it was decided that since the major cause of the problem was human error in both the manufacturing and maintenance stages, HKCA’s previous proposal of a consultancy study on the subject was abandoned, and that the matter be referred to the Task Force on Safety of Tower Cranes for pursuing training to the mechanics on inspection of tower cranes.

**Action**

**7.12 Any Other Business**

Members supported that the CIC website could be a platform for alerting industry personnel of safety-related issues such as incidents, follow-up actions, and the fatality rates as well as environmental issues. In order to optimize resources, HKCA has kindly agreed that CIC could establish a link to their website which relevant information could be readily shared by users. The said link would be available upon revamping the current CIC website in the near future.

**7.13 Next Meeting**

20 March 2009 (Friday) at 2:30 pm at Room 1201 Murray Building.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

***Remark:*** *The mentioned papers discussed in the Meeting of the Committee can be made available to the Council Members from the CIC Secretariat upon request.*

**CIC Secretariat  
March 2009**