

Construction Industry Council

Steering Group on Implementation of CWRO Amendments

Meeting No. 003/17 of the Steering Group on Implementation of CWRO Amendments was held on Thursday, 10 August 2017 at 4pm at Conference Room, Hong Kong Construction Association, 16/F, 180 – 182 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Summary notes of the Steering Group on Implementation of CWRO Amendments (SGICA) Meeting No. 003/17:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
3.1	CIC/ICA/R/002/17	<u>Confirmation of Progress Report of the Last Meeting</u> The minutes of the 2 nd meeting in 2017 held on 15 May 2017 were confirmed.
3.3.1	CIC/ICA/P/003/17 (for information)	<u>Progress Report on Benchmark Study of Non-local Workers' Skill Certificates</u> The Centre for Innovation in Construction & Infrastructure Development (CICID) of the HKU had completed the draft final report of the “Consultancy Services for Establishing an Accreditation Framework for Qualifying Skilled Workers for the Hong Kong Construction Industry”. Key results were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With reference to the qualifications frameworks in other territories and opinions of CIC Trade Tests instructors, Course Advisory Panels and the Panel Chairmen, skills standards of 15 trade divisions were developed;• Compared the CIC Trade Tests/Intermediate Trade Tests with the Skills Evaluation Certificate (Knowledge) trade tests of the Building and Construction Authority in Singapore, corresponding top-up training with duration were recommended; CICID collected opinions in the meeting of SGICA, the final report will be submitted later.
3.3.2	CIC/ICA/P/003/17 (for information)	<u>Number of Applications for Registration of Skilled & Semi-skilled Workers through Senior Worker Registration Arrangement and Trade Tests</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of 30 June 2017, the total number of applications for the senior workers registration arrangement (SWRA) and trade tests was 168,836 (111,072 for SWRA and 57,764 for trade tests). The number had exceeded the target set by SGICA.• Assessment of applications for SWRA had been completed smoothly by 30 June 2017. In the total number of 111,072 applications, 105,501 (95%) were approved with workers registration cards

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		<p>issued and 5,571 (5%) were rejected/cancelled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 30 June 2017, a total of 106,136 workers registered as skilled/semi-skilled workers through SWRA or trade tests.
3.3.3	CIC/ICA/P/003/17 (for information)	<p><u>Review the Number of Registrations of Skilled & Semi-skilled Workers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 30 June 2017, there were 221,646 registered general workers, 24,372 registered semi-skilled workers and 199,862 registered skilled workers. Ratio of general workers and skilled workers (including semi-skilled workers) was about 1:1. There were 1,042 registered skilled workers (provisional) and 10 registered semi-skilled workers (provisional). • The CIC has sent a letter to the Secretary for Development to propose the appointment of an expiry date for application for registration as registered skilled workers (provisional) (“RSWP”) and registered semi-skilled workers (provisional) (“RSSWP”) under section 39(3) of the CWRO. The proposal was to have the expiry date be the date 12 months after the gazette date of the notice. A Member raised that ample time should be given to workers to register before the expiry date. Members deliberated and agreed to align with the senior workers registration arrangement and extend the deadline for provisional application from 12 months to 18 months after the gazette date of the notice (estimated July 2019), with the view of providing qualified workers with more time to submit applications. The secretariat will write to the Development Bureau on the updated proposal.
3.3.4	CIC/ICA/P/003/17 (for information)	<p><u>Promotion and Education on “Designated Workers for Designated Skills” Provision</u></p> <p>Promotion work was mainly on explaining the requirements of the provision to the industry via seminars, briefing sessions on construction sites, eDM, banners, posters, leaflets and adverts/articles on industry publications. 52 seminars with 1,805 participants were held from January to July 2017. Apart from contractors, seminars were organised for government departments and professional bodies and would be organised for consultancy firms to ensure they understand the provision well with no misinterpretation.</p> <p><u>Senior Workers Registration Arrangement (SWRA) of the Three New Trade Divisions</u></p> <p>18-month senior workers registration arrangement for the three new trade divisions had started since 1 April 2017. As of June 2017, 251 and 124 applications respectively for False Ceiling Installer and Partition (Metal Frame) Installer were received.</p>

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		<p><u>Inspection of Designated Workers for Designated Skills (DWDS)</u> From 1 April to 31 July 2017, out of 519 sites inspected, 355 sites were required to comply with the DWDS requirements. The inspection team had issued 23 notices of advice to 13 sites where non-compliance cases were identified.</p>
3.3.5	CIC/ICA/P/003/17 (for information)	<p><u>Construction Workers Registration System (CWRS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 1 August 2017, 1,089 of 1,502 active construction sites had been using the CWRS. • The remaining 279 contracts which are required to be transferred to the CWRS were already contacted; a work plan from now till 30 September 2017 was formulated. The Secretariat will closely monitor the progress and provide full assistance to contractors for a smooth implementation.
3.3.6	CIC/ICA/P/003/17 (for information)	<p><u>Progress Report on Trade Test Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was estimated that number of trade tests would increase by 30% in 2017, to a total of 30,000 trade tests to be conducted in the whole year of 2017. Passing rate in 2016 was 65-68%. • Enhancement of trade testing facilities and services was ongoing. New builders' lift was installed. Pre-test qigong warm up exercise would be introduced. • Promotion for trade tests include organising briefing sessions on construction sites, distributing of giveaway, introducing of trade test to ethnic minorities and broadcasting trade testing video on youtube, radio and building's advertising location.
3.4	Any Other Business	<p><u>Issuance of New Workers Registration Cards</u> Considering there may be a few contracts with contract end date set before 30 September under CIC record, might extend their end date beyond 30 September 2017. If these sites have not yet been converted to the new CWRS, workers might encounter problems when entering these sites. Members agreed to observe the situation of CWRS adoption in October and to issue new workers registration cards starting from November tentatively, in order to ensure workers holding new cards would be able to access to the sites.</p>

Remarks: *The mentioned papers discussed at the Steering Group of Implementation of CWRO Amendments can be made available to Council Members from the CIC Secretariat upon request.*