

**Construction Industry Council**

**Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (RSTCS)**

Meeting No. 002/24 of the Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (Com-RSC) for 2024 was held on 20 March 2024 (Wednesday) at 2:00 pm at Boardroom, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay and via video conferencing.

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Summary Notes of the Com-RSC Meeting No. 002/24:

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights</b>
2.1	CIC/RSC/M/001/24 (for approval)	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 January 2024.
2.2	---	<b>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting</b> Members noted the matters arising from the previous meeting were followed up in agenda item 2.3.
2.3	CIC/RSC/P/019/24 (for approval)	<b>Follow-up Report on Proposed Addition of “Painting”, “Metal Work” and “Structural Steelwork” as Designated Trades</b> Through the Secretariat's follow-up with the Hong Kong Metal Engineering Contracting Association and Hong Kong Painting Contractors Association, Members noted the update of the registration requirements for “Structural Steelwork” and the recommendation of status quo for registration requirements for “Painting”.

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights</b>
		<p>Having considered the views of Members, the Com-RSC made the following decisions:</p> <p>(a) To approve the addition of “Painting” and “Structural Steelwork” as designated trades for the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (RSTCS) and the launch of the designated trades of “Painting”, “Metal Work” and “Structural Steelwork” on 1 May 2024.</p> <p>(b) To approve the amendments to the relevant registration requirements under the RSTCS Rules and Procedures.</p>
2.4	CIC/RSC/P/020/24 (for approval)	<p><b>Proposed Addition of “Horticultural Works”, “Arboricultural Works” and “Skyrise Greenery Works” as Designated Trades</b></p> <p>Members noted that the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Federation and the Hong Kong Greening Contractors Association proposed adding “Horticultural Works”, “Arboricultural Works” and “Skyrise Greenery Works” as designated trades.</p> <p>Members noted that the Secretariat had met with the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, and Works Policies Section of the Development Bureau, and members of the Arboriculture and Horticulture Industry Development Advisory Committee to introduce the proposed registration for designated trades and collect views.</p> <p>Having considered the views of Members, the Com-RSC made the following decisions:</p> <p>(a) To approve the addition of “Horticultural Works”, “Arboricultural Works” and “Skyrise Greenery Works” as designated trades of the RSTCS with launch date on 1 May 2024.</p>

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		(b) To approve the amendments to the relevant registration requirements under the RSTCS Rules and Procedures.
2.5	CIC/RSC/P/021/24  (for information)	<b>Follow-up Report on Construction Safety-related Work Plan</b>  The Com-RSC at the first meeting in 2024 discussed how to further promote the continuous improvement of construction safety among specialist trade contractors and subcontractors. Members noted that the Secretariat had already commenced the execution of the work plan.  Members further deliberated construction safety-related work plan. The key points were summarised below:  (a) Regarding the new promotional leaflet for Building Maintenance and Interior Fitting-out, Members recommended to consider setting out owner's responsibilities in respect of the repair, maintenance, alteration and addition works, as well as reminder on compliance to the Buildings Ordinance.  (b) Members recommended distributing the promotional leaflets to the Owners' Corporation, and the list of Owners' Corporations might be obtained from the Home Affairs Department.  (c) Specialist trade contractors and subcontractors are encouraged to share their experience to train their supervisors especially to promote construction safety.  (d) Members suggested to explore introduction of first aid training to the training course for subcontractor supervisors.

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		<p>Besides, the Com-RSC will provide support to the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(e) To encourage subcontractors to convene internal meetings immediately after each serious or fatal accident to discuss with their staff the causes of the accidents and the relevant lessons learnt, so as to make concerted efforts to promote safety.</li> <li>(f) To cascade to supervisors to be considerate of oneself and others, and to continuously upgrade the quality of supervisors to ensure the implementation of safety measures.</li> <li>(g) To encourage contractors to share and cooperate with each other.</li> <li>(h) To promote the implementation of the “Pay for Safety Scheme” by private developers, and solicit support from the Development Bureau to take lead to review the tendering system of “Lowest Bidder Wins”.</li> <li>(i) To promote the application of 4S, and understand the difficulties encountered by subcontractors and specialist trade contractors.</li> <li>(j) To promote the “Safety Performance Record Scheme for Frontline Staff”, and encourage management to listen to the needs of workers, understand their working environment, and seek suggestions for improvement.</li> </ul>
2.6	CIC/RSC/P/022/24  (for information)	<p><b>RSTCS Operation Report</b></p> <p>Members took note of the Operation Report. As of end of February 2024, the total number of registered companies was 7,281 (December 2023: 7,290) in which 1,936 (December 2023: 1,956)</p>

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		were Registered Specialist Trade Contractors and 5,345 (December 2023: 5,334) were Registered Subcontractors.
2.7	-	<b>Any Other Business</b> Members noted that the application for the CIC Outstanding Contractor Award 2024 had started since 11 March 2024. The Secretariat invited Members to encourage trade association members and the industry to participate in the Award.
2.8	-	<b>Date of the Next Meeting</b> Members noted that Meeting No. 003/24 of the Com-RSC for 2024 would be held on 29 May 2024 (Wednesday) at 2:00 pm at Boardroom, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay.
2.9	CIC/RSC/P/023/24 (for information)	<b>Follow-up Report on Suspected Non-compliance Cases</b> Members noted that the Secretariat had issued reminder letters to the relevant registered companies in respect of 8 suspected but non-convicted cases of non-compliance referred by the Housing Department.
2.10	CIC/RSC/P/024/24 (for approval)	<b>Regulatory Action</b> Members noted that as of 29 February 2024, there were 4 conviction cases which met the guiding principles for issuance of written warnings. Members approved the issuance of written warnings to the registered companies.

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2.11	CIC/RSC/P/025/24- CIC/RSC/P/030/24  (for approval)	<b>Regulatory Hearing</b>  The Com-RSC imposed a total of seven regulatory actions of written warnings and suspension due to violation of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance and for being ordered by the Court to pay arrears to the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA).

*Remarks: The mentioned papers and/or progress reports discussed at the Com-RSC can be made available to Council Members from the CIC Secretariat upon request.*