

**Construction Industry Council**

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

Meeting No. 002/25 of the Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (Com-RSC) for 2025 was held on 29 May 2025 (Thursday) 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. 002/25:

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights</b>
2.1	CIC/RSC/M/001/25 (for approval)	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>  Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 March 2025.
2.2	CIC/RSC/P/034/25 (for information)	<b>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting</b>  Members noted that the number of registered “Truss-out Scaffolding” (TOS) specialist trade contractors had increased to 13. There were 60 more applications in progress, with most of them undergoing the “Star Enterprises” safety accreditation of the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC). On the other hand, the Secretariat, after several rounds of coordination amongst the OSHC and the Employees’ Compensation Insurance Residual Scheme (ECIRS) Bureau Limited, has obtained mutual agreement among the involving parties on establishing a “provisional certification” arrangement, which allows additional premium discounts under the ECIRS to be enjoyed by applicant companies that meet all other registration criteria (except on workmen insurance). Regarding the progress of metal

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		brackets replacement programme dedicated for registered TOS companies, Members noted that the CIC Safety Department was finalising the technical specifications and sample testing, while the tendering for suppliers would proceed in parallel to strive for launching the programme in between the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> quarters to provide extra incentives for potential TOS companies to apply for registration with the CIC.
2.3 & 2.4	CIC/RSC/P/035/25 (for approval) and CIC/RSC/P/036/25 (for approval)	<p><b>Review of Mechanism for Handling Serious Near-miss Incidents and Proposed Enhancement on Handling Procedure of Non-compliance Cases under the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme Ordinance</b></p> <p>With the view to enhancing the regulatory action mechanism and after much deliberation amongst Members, the Com-RSC approved the following two recommendations:</p> <p>(a) Strengthening the handling of serious near-miss incidents by authorising the Secretariat, on behalf of the Com-RSC, to meet promptly with the involved companies to place a strong emphasis over their management on taking follow-up actions seriously, including incident investigation, care for the injured, identifying causes and shortcomings and implementation of improvement measures, t. Otherwise, the Com-RSC might instigate further regulatory actions to increase deterrence; and</p> <p>(b) Enhancing the handling of convicted MPF related cases of minor nature with the revised threshold of imposing sanctions based on the latest data of 2024. Furthermore, upon the Com-RSC's approval, written warnings would be issued against companies of repeated cases that involved the same project or main contractor provided that the amount of late MPF contributions or the number of employees is below the threshold, without going through hearings in order to speed up responses.</p>

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2.5	CIC/RSC/P/037/25 (for confirmation)	<p><b>Com-RSC Key Performance Indicators, Work Plan, and Budget of 2026</b></p> <p>After much deliberation amongst Members, the Com-RSC endorsed the work plan, budget and following key KPIs of 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Strengthening the supervision of registered companies involved in serious near-miss incidents;</li> <li>(b) Operating the TOS metal brackets replacement programme;</li> <li>(c) Organising the RSTCS Leadership Summit;</li> <li>(d) Overcoming renewal peak with stepped up registration requirements; and</li> <li>(e) Exploring additional designated trades with stakeholders.</li> </ul>
2.6	CIC/RSC/P/038/25 (for information)	<p><b>RSTCS Operation Report</b></p> <p>Members took note that as of end-April 2025, the total number of registered companies was 7,022 (Feb 2025: 7,185), in which 2,310 (Feb 2025: 2,652) were Registered Specialist Trade Contractors and 4,712 (Feb 2025: 4,533) were Registered Subcontractors, along with the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Completed the transition arrangement for Group 1 companies of the designated trades of “S13 Building Maintenance” and “S14 Interior Fitting-out” on 31 March 2025. Companies not meeting with the registration requirements were removed from the register;</li> <li>(b) Engaged continuously with key stakeholders of the three greening works related designated trades to promote the RSTCS and urged those companies to complete the transition arrangement before the end of October 2025 in order to maintain their registration status;</li> </ul>

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		<p>(c) Published the new videos of rebar fixing, painting, formwork and levelling &amp; setting-out trades on the dedicated webpage of the series of “Good Practice Manuals” of the RSTCS website;</p> <p>(d) Called on all Members and their representing organisations to participate in the augural “Outstanding Frontline Supervisor Award” that recognises foremen of main contractors and trade supervisors &amp; ganger of registered companies their contributions and for enhancing their professional image; Online nomination would be ended by 30 June 2025 whereas the award ceremony would be scheduled on 16 November 2025 together with the Construction Workers’ Carnival;</p> <p>(e) Kept reminding registered companies’ management and technical staff to attend ICAC’s relevant integrity trainings readily available online in every month. In addition, the Secretariat would organise a dedicated webinar titled “Handling of cases under Prevention of Bribery Ordinance for the Construction Industry” on 22 July 2025 to enhance in particular their awareness on avoiding misconducts such as illegal introduction fees, forgery of document etc. and promoting culture of integrity management, for meeting registration renewal requirement; and</p> <p>(f) Arranged “happy hour” gatherings for members of the RSTCS Young Leaders Network on 19 and 24 June 2025 to share experiences on practical adoption of innovative technologies and robotics on sites by trade leaders and to visit the newly opened “Centre for Future Construction” of the CIC.</p>

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2.7	-	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>A Member stated that main contractors of public works were not strictly enforcing the contract requirement regarding employing registered specialist trade contractors of relevant groupings. The representative of the Development Bureau responded that information of any such cases could be provided to them for following up separately.</p>
2.8	-	<p><b>Date of the Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Members took note that an additional meeting would be held on 11 June 2025 (Wednesday) and thereafter another meeting would be held on 20 August 2025 (Wednesday) at 2:00 pm.</p>
2.9	CIC/RSC/P/039/25 (for information)	<p><b>Follow-up Report on Suspected Non-compliance Cases</b></p> <p>Members noted that the Secretariat had issued reminder letters to seven registered companies which had been referred by relevant departments for suspected but not convicted late payment of wages.</p>
2.10	-	<p><b>Follow-up Report on Serious Near-Miss Cases</b></p> <p>Members noted that the Secretariat, on behalf of the Com-RSC and as a trial, had quickly met with the management of registered companies involved in recent two serious near-miss cases and would keep in view their provision of information about the detailed investigation report, implementation of remedial actions and etc. in due course.</p>

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2.11- 2.12	CIC/RSC/P/040/25- CIC/RSC/P/043/25 (for approval)	<b>Regulatory Actions</b>  The Com-RSC imposed regulatory actions of suspension of registration and written warnings against a total of nine companies for reasons including prosecution by relevant departments, or violation of the relevant legislations concerning the late payment of wages and MPF contributions, as well as late submission of workers' daily attendance records.

*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.*