

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Construction Site Safety

Meeting No. 001/09 of the Committee on Construction Site Safety was held on Friday, 20 March 2009 at 2:30 pm at Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central.

Present:	Thomas KWOK	(TK)	Chairman
	AU Choi-kai	(CKA)	
	CHOI Chun-wa	(CWC)	
	WAN Koon-sun	(KSW)	
	James BLAKE	(JB)	Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation
	Anthony CHAN	(AnCN)	Hong Kong Construction Association
	Philip CHAN	(PC)	Hong Kong Institute of Architects
	Dominic LAM	(DL)	Hong Kong Federation of Insurers
	PANG Long	(LP)	Construction Site Workers General Union
	William SIU	(WS)	Hong Kong Bar-Bending Contractors Association
	TSANG Chiu-kwan	(CKT)	The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
	Charles WONG	(CWG)	Construction Industry Council Training Academy
	Jason WONG	(JWG)	Occupational Safety and Health Council – Representing TANG Wah-shing
	YU Koon-ching	(KCY)	Hong Kong Safety Supervisors Association
	Terry CHING	(TCG)	Housing Department - Representing Ada FUNG
	LEUNG Man-ho	(MHL)	Development Bureau
	LEUNG Siu-man	(SML)	Buildings Department
	TSO Sing-hin	(SHT)	Labour Department
In Attendance :	Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
	Alex LEUNG	(AL)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 1
	Raymond KWOK	(RK)	Manager (Council Services) 3
	Paul PANG (for agenda item 1.4)	(PP)	Buildings Department
	HUI Ming-fong (for agenda item 1.4)	(MFH)	Buildings Department
	Michael PANG (for agenda item 1.4)	(YLP)	Buildings Department

Apologies :	Thomas HO	(TH)	
	Stanley HUI	(SH)	
	KO Jan-ming	(JMK)	
	Ada FUNG	(AF)	Housing Department
	Ros LAM	(RL)	Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
	LAU Chi-keung	(CKeL)	Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
	NG Kwok-kwan	(KKN)	Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees' General Union
	TANG Wah-shing	(WST)	Occupational Safety and Health Council
	TSUI Wai	(WT)	Drainage Services Department
	Francis WONG	(FW)	Hong Kong Polytechnic University

PROGRESS REPORT

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1.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the 7th Committee Meeting in 2008

Members took note of Progress Report CIC/CSS/R/007/08 and approved the progress report of the last meeting held on 12 December 2008.

1.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Agenda item 7.3 Members agreed that an informal working group should be formed to study and facilitate the application of the New Insurance Mediation Scheme for resolving construction works related personal injuries disputes. LD and labour union were invited to join the informal working group in addition to HKCA, HKMC and HKFI.

Agenda item 7.5 SHT tabled a paper titled 'Safety Performance of Sites Participating in the REDA/HKCA Safety Partnering Programme (SPP)' and presented to Members the safety performance of sites adopting PFSS. The study showed that construction site safety would be improved if there was a wider participation in

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the SPP. Chairman advised that the REDA would also encourage its members to actively take part in the SPP.

Members concurred that to foster safety culture in the industry, it would be desirable to introduce an award scheme to commend parties with good site safety performance. Details of the award scheme would be proposed by HKCA and Labour Department.

LD / HKCA

Agenda item 7.6 This item would be discussed at agenda item 1.6.

Agenda item 7.10 It was noted that HKCA had provided a DVD recording the seminar to the CIC Secretariat for reference.

1.3 A Preliminary Analysis of Fatal Accidents Occurred in the Construction Industry in 2008

SHT introduced the Paper CIC/CSS/P/001/09 and briefed Members the preliminary analysis of 27 fatal accidents in construction industry in 2008.

Members agreed that the Com-CSS should dedicate special attention on site safety aspects of RMAA works. It was proposed to widen the terms of reference of the current Informal Task Force on Co-operation with Property Management Companies and rename it as 'Task Force on Work Safety of RMAA Sites'. The new Task Force would take in charge of proposing strategies and initiatives to promote work safety concerning RMAA works. The CIC Secretariat tabled a draft terms of reference and membership composition of the new Task Force for Members' consideration. Members endorsed the terms of reference and recommended to include representatives from EMSD and Hong Kong and Kowloon Electrical Engineering and Appliances Trade Workers Union in the membership list. SHT was nominated as the Chairman of the Task Force.

(JB left the meeting at 3:55pm.)

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1.4 **Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS), Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) and Minor Works Control System (MWCS)**

It was agreed to discuss agenda item 1.4 before item 1.3. Members took note of the Paper CIC/CSS/P/002/09. Representatives from the Buildings Department (BD) introduced the details of the proposed MBIS/MWIS. BD anticipated that the two inspection schemes would be implemented in 2011 after completion and passing through the required legislation procedures.

BD also presented the MWCS to Members. The system, which was expected to be implemented by the end of 2009, would enable the carrying out of minor works legally through simplified procedures.

Concern was raised on the importance of site safety training for the minor works contractors. BD responded that for individual practitioners who would like to be registered as Class III minor works contractors, attendance of courses covering statutory requirements and safety measures in relation to minor works would be required.

Members suggested BD to consider enhancing co-ordination with EMSD on electrical trade which might not fall under BD's regime but related to RMAA works.

(PP, MFH and YLP left the meeting at the end of agenda item 1.4 at 3:30pm.)

1.5 **Request for extension of the “Reversing Video Device Sponsorship Scheme for Heavy Vehicles on Construction Site” to cover 24-tonne Dump Trucks**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/CSS/P/003/09. In respect of the opinions received from the Federation of Hong Kong Transport Worker Organizations about installation specifications, JWG clarified that there would be no more problem as Transport Department's requirements could now be easily satisfied with recent technological development. Regarding the request for

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extending the Sponsorship Scheme to cover 24-tonnes dump trucks, LD and OSHC agreed to review the Scheme with HKCA 6 months later and would report to the Com-CSS accordingly.

**LD / OSHC/
HKCA**

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

The CIC Secretariat explained the Paper CIC/CSS/P/004/09. The Director of Buildings had no further comment on the draft letter addressing to BD. It was confirmed that the draft letter would be submitted to the CIC for endorsement and then issuance by the CIC Chairman.

**CIC
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(Remark: The draft letter to be issued by the Chairman of the CIC to the Director of Buildings for the subject request is attached at **Annex A** for endorsement by the CIC.)

1.7 Progress Report of Meeting No. 001/09 on Informal Task Force on Permanent Safety Features

Members took note of the Information Paper CIC/CSS/P/005/09. In respect of the proposal of asking Government to exempt service platforms of outdoor A/C units for GFA calculation, Members agreed that it would be difficult for Government to implement any further concession policy. However, it would be desirable if BD would put more emphasis on safety consideration when assessing building plan submissions.

Regarding the Task Group on the Design, Installation and Maintenance of Cast-in Anchor Device, the Task Group Chairman (CKiL) would take lead in preparing the first draft of the technical guidelines.

1.8 Progress Report of the 2nd Meeting on Task Force on Construction Design and Management

Members took note of the Paper CIC/CSS/P/006/09. Application experience of CDM from MTRCL, Airport Authority and in the United Kingdom had been shared by the Task Force Members. The Task Force would continue to study the successful experience of other projects in the next meeting.

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

CWG briefed Members the Paper CIC/CSS/P/007/09. The informal working group had completed the review of safety competencies of different levels/ positions of the staff of contractors and consultants and identified 18 types of safety training courses currently provided in the market. Members agreed to establish an informal Task Force to be responsible for the implementation of site safety training requirements and confirmed the proposed terms of reference and membership composition as annexed to Paper CIC/CSS/P/007/09. Representative from the Development Bureau was also invited to join the Task Force.

The CICTA had also examined the safety training currently provided at different universities in Hong Kong. These training courses would be reviewed again after establishment of the training requirements for graduate engineers.

1.10 **Progress Report of Meeting No. 001/09 on Informal Task Force on Co-operation with Property Management Companies**

SHT briefed Members the Paper CIC/CSS/P/008/09. He highlighted that the Task Force was concerned about the mandatory implementation of the new Cable Colour Code by EMSD in the near future. It was envisaged that accidents in relation to electric shock might be increased due to significant changes in colour codes for cables. Workers might mix up the new codes with previous ones. The CIC Secretariat would prepare a letter for the Com-CSS Chairman's issuance to the EMSD requesting them to strengthen the promotion and education of the electrical workers and the public on the application of the new Cable Colour Code.

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SHT also showed two posters and an ADI (in the form of TV announcement) to Members highlighting the importance of safety in relation to work-at-height from a family care approach.

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1.11 Year Plan 2009

The CIC Secretariat introduced the Paper CIC/CSS/P/009/09 and proposed the Year Plan 2009 for Members' consideration. Four prioritized tasks had been identified including enhancement of RMAA works safety, implementation of the site safety training, development of CDM and revision of the guidelines on safety of tower cranes. In view of the effort and extent of stakeholders involved, some of the tasks would have to continue beyond 2009. Members concurred with the proposed programme and endorsed the Year Plan for the Com-CSS.

1.12 Any Other Business

It was reported that TH had kindly offered to arrange a site visit for Members regarding the experience of behavioral aspects of safety applied in the CLP. It was also noted that TH volunteered to chair the Task Force on Behavioral Aspects of Safety which would be further discussed in the next meeting.

TH

Members agreed that after deliberation between HKCA, LD and Development Bureau, the CIC Secretariat would issue a letter to the relevant organizations in soliciting their assistance in reminding their members and relevant parties to follow the recommendations as provided in the 'Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather'.

**CIC
Secretariat**

1.13 Next Meeting

26 June 2009 (Friday) at 2:30 pm at Room 1201 Murray Building.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 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

Construction Industry Council

建造業議會

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XX XX 2009

To: Buildings Department
(Attention: Mr AU Choi-kai, Director of Buildings)

Dear Mr AU,

Committee on Construction Site Safety

Informal Task Force on Permanent Safety Features

Re: Request for Preparation of Practice Notes on Installation of Gondolas in New Residential Buildings

The Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) under the Construction Industry Council (CIC) has been established to review and monitor site safety performance of the construction industry; to identify and recommend measures for improving safety performance; and to promote adoption of such measures by the industry. The Task Force on Permanent Safety Features is formed under the Com-CSS and its major objective is to formulate recommendations on the provisions of design features in new buildings for enhancing the safety of Repair and Maintenance (R&M) works executed on external walls.

The Task Force has identified gondolas as one of the desirable safety design features which would be effective in providing safe access to external walls. The Task Force has also studied the technical and administrative aspects of providing gondolas and confirmed that they are feasible. In the recent discussions held by the Task Force, PlanD advised that according to its Urban Design Guidelines, gondola enclosures could be considered as rooftop utility structures and could be exempted from calculation of height restrictions if they were of the minimum size required to adequately fulfill their functional requirements and the total height of all rooftop utility structures did not project 15 m beyond the main roof level and was not greater than 10% of the height of the building (whichever was less). The height of proposed roof-top structures should also have regards to stipulation in the statutory town plan and other

relevant considerations such as building free zone to preserve the view of ridgelines from vantage points. Task Force members, including representatives from BD, LandsD and PlanD noted that height restriction should in general not be an impediment to the installation of gondolas for residential buildings.

The same has been discussed in meetings of Com-CSS and the CIC, which the Members are representatives from the construction industry. Members support the installation of gondolas in new residential buildings to enhance the safety of R&M works being executed on external walls. Members also come to consensus that such feature is highly desirable and is technically and administratively feasible to be provided in new buildings. The CIC therefore recommends the BD to issue Practice Notes or Joint Practice Notes together with LandsD and PlanD to promote the installation of gondolas in new residential buildings and to stipulate the requirements for such installation for the stakeholders to follow.

The CIC would like to take this opportunity to thank BD, LandsD and PlanD for your support throughout the previous discussions and we look forward to receiving your favourable reply in helping us enhance safety of the construction industry.

Yours sincerely,

(Keith KERR)
Chairman
Construction Industry Council

Distribution: Miss Annie TAM - Director of Lands
Mrs Ava S Y TSE NG - Director of Planning
Mr YUE Chi-hang - Director of Architectural Services

cc: Mr Thomas KWOK - Chairman of the Committee on
Construction Site Safety
Prof. KO Jan-ming - Chairman of the Informal Task Force
on Permanent Safety Features
CIC Secretariat