



As part of its commitment to promote the interests of the construction industry in Hong Kong, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) publishes *CIC Snapshots* every two months to provide industry stakeholders with regular updates on the CIC's ongoing activities and the strategic issues handled by its committees.

Committee on Construction Site Safety

Promotion of Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather

With the advent of the summer months, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) is publicising its updated version of the *Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather* which was published in April 2013. Mr. Alex LEUNG, Deputy Director – Training and Development, delivered a presentation introducing the key points of the guidelines to frontline industry practitioners at an event organised by the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) and Labour Department (LD).

The organisers also promulgated the launching of a pilot scheme for construction contractors to acquire electric fan cooling vests for workers engaged in bar bending, fixing and formwork. The event was held on 17 June 2013 and attracted more than 100 practitioners with positive feedback.



Lift Guidelines in Final Stage

With the concerted effort from members of the Task Force on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shaft and its Task Group, the preparation of the draft *Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works (Volume 3 – Throughout Occupation Stage)* is now progressing to the final stage.

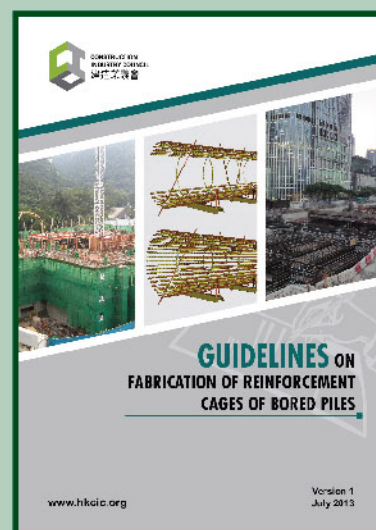
Six working group meetings were held in the first half of 2013 to facilitate the drafting of the guidelines. After a series of thorough deliberations during working group meetings, the drafting of the guidelines is approaching its final stage. As the lift works concerning lift alteration works, lift maintenance and repair works throughout the occupation period will have close involvement by management companies and lift workers, two special meetings with the Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employees (HKGULEE) and the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies (HKAPMC) were held on 3 July 2013 to enhance their understanding of the guidelines.



Guidelines on Fabrication of Reinforcement Cages of Bored Piles Published

On 4 July 2013, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) published the *Guidelines on Fabrication of Reinforcement Cages of Bored Piles*. Significant contributions were provided by the Task Force on Review of Major Construction Method Statements for the completion of the guidelines.

The guidelines provide general guidance on proper procedures of fabrication of reinforcement cages of bored piles and are intended to enhance the safety of workers and site safety performance. Construction industry stakeholders, practitioners and professionals are encouraged to adopt the work procedures set out in the guidelines in various construction projects as far as practicable.



Committee on Environment and Technology

Regional BIM Workshop Attended

Since setting up the Working Group on Roadmap for Building Information Modelling (BIM) Implementation in Hong Kong, the CIC has been playing the role of industry co-ordinating body to facilitate the wider adoption of BIM in Hong Kong's construction industry. While the draft final report of Roadmap for BIM Strategic Implementation is being prepared, the CIC is proceeding with the next steps for BIM implementation in Hong Kong.

The CIC was invited to represent Hong Kong's construction industry at the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Workshop on BIM at Medan, Indonesia, in June 2013. Through the exchange of views and experience among government officials, experts and academics on BIM from APEC member countries, it was found that they are dedicated to moving towards the wider adoption of BIM as its usage is being driven by international demand.



The CIC is also considering the development of a set of BIM standards for use in Hong Kong and bridging regional practices. BIM will also be one of the key topics on the programme at the CIC's annual conference in November 2013, co-organised with Development Bureau and Hong Kong Housing Authority.

Movement of Construction Waste Monitoring Technology Tested

The Task Force on Schematic Design for Application for Radio-frequency Identification (RFID), GPS and Sensor Technology in Monitoring the Movement of Construction Waste aims to make use of readily available technologies to monitor the movement of construction waste.

With the assistance of the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM), a solution prototype based on RFID was developed and tested at a Hong Kong Housing Authority construction site in mid June 2013.

The solution prototype was designed to achieve the goals of:

- providing one standardised and open system specification solution for the whole construction industry in Hong Kong to try to avoid more than one system being installed in a truck;
- avoiding a proprietary solution to encourage solution providers' competition.



Committee on Procurement

Employer-Procured Insurance Policies Studied

The Task Force on Employer-Procured Insurance Policies in Construction Contracts continued to explore the benefits and other relevant factors of promoting the use of employer-procured insurance in the Hong Kong construction industry, and the relevant local and overseas experience. It was suggested that, overseas, there was a long history of employer-procured insurance applications and that the policies were used extensively in developed countries, including in Europe, the USA, Australia, and across Asia.



Renowned overseas projects that adopted employer-procured insurance policies included: London Olympics and Cross Rail Project in the UK; World Trade Centre Reconstruction and New York Second Avenue Subway in the USA; Gateway Bridge and Silvertown Wind Farm in Australia; Marina Bay Sands Casino and Mass Rapid Transit in Singapore; Taipei Metro and High Speed Rail in Taiwan; as well as Parc One and New Songdo City Phase 1 Development in South Korea. In Hong Kong, the development of employer-procured insurance dated back to the 1970s and that early application of employer-procured insurance policies concentrated mainly on Contractor All Risks and Third Party Liability insurance, the so-called "Owner-Controlled Insurance Programme (OCIP)".

Project Wrap-up Employees' Compensation scheme was only introduced as a parallel coverage to OCIP after the Airport Core Programme in the late 1990s. Several benefits of employer-procured insurance were deliberated. These included potentially the creation of a level playing field for tenderers; better ability to insure small but complex contracts; availability of broader and higher limit liability insurance coverage; and better claims management. In the coming meetings, the Task Force will continue the sharing of experience and reviewing the applicability of Employer-Procured Insurance Policies in construction contracts in Hong Kong.

Draft Prepared on Selection of Consultants

With the concerted effort of the Chairman of the Task Force on the Selection of Consultants and Contractors, Chapter Authors, and Report Editor, a revised preliminary draft document entitled *Reference Materials on the Selection of Consultants* was prepared. The document was circulated to the Task Force members for comment at its last meeting held in June 2013. The Task Force Chairman will work in collaboration with the Report Editor to review the received suggestions and address them before re-submitting to the Task Force and/or Committee for further review.



Further Work on Competition Law, NEC3 Contracts

Following the successful organisation of the Competition Law cum Security of Payment Forum and the publication of the first Procurement Fact Sheet on the Competition Ordinance in May 2013, the Task Force on Competition Law has started gathering information for the possible preparation of another Fact Sheet on the Competition Law, tentatively, on tendering practice such as bid rigging. Meanwhile, a Frequently Asked Questions publication on the NEC3 Collaborative Contract is being drafted by the Task Force and Task Group on NEC3 Collaborative Contracts.

Committee on Subcontracting

Feedback Received on Dispute Resolution Proposals

Various opinions were given by a number of key stakeholder groups on the implementation of the *Reference Materials for Application of Dispute Resolution in Construction Contracts* prepared by the former Task Force on Dispute Resolution Documentation.

At upcoming meetings, the Working Group on the Review of the Implementation of the Dispute Resolution Mechanism will review the comments and concerns from a practical point of view to determine whether re-drafting or amendment of certain parts of the Reference Materials is needed.

First Meeting on DRA Held

Respective members representing different stakeholder groups shared their initial views and opinions on the feasibility of introducing Dispute Resolution Advisor (DRA) system in the subcontract level at the first meeting in June 2013 convened by the Task Force on Adoption of Dispute Resolution Advisor System in Subcontract.

More in-depth discussion of the pros and cons of the adoption of a DRA system at the subcontract level will be carried out in upcoming meetings. The Task Force aims to complete the study by end of this year with a recommendation for the Committee on Subcontracting to determine whether this initiative is worth pursuing.

Update on SRS

Since the CIC took over the Voluntary Subcontractor Registration Scheme (VSRS) in 2010, it has worked with key industry stakeholders with the view to enhancing the scheme.

The review was completed last year and implementation of several improvement measures has begun, including the renaming of the VSRS to Subcontractor Registration Scheme (SRS) from 1 January 2013. The renaming of the scheme does not affect the status of those Registered Subcontractors registered before 1 January 2013 and no separate applications for new registration are required under the SRS. Since the launch of the SRS, operation has been smooth.

To familiarise industry stakeholders with the initiatives implemented under the SRS and to strengthen communication with them, the CIC has been organising briefing sessions on a monthly basis. So far around 300 participants have attended the briefing sessions since the announcement of implementing the SRS was made in October 2012.

For further details and registration for the upcoming SRS briefing sessions, please visit the CIC website (www.hkcic.org/srs).

Actions Taken Against Registered Subcontractors

Hearings are conducted from time-to-time to determine if regulatory actions would be taken against Registered Subcontractors violating the Rules and Procedures of the SRS. Following a recent regulatory action hearing in June 2013, the respective regulatory actions taken have been released on the SRS web page of the CIC website.

Construction Workers Registration Board

Submission of Daily Attendance Records (DAR)

To enhance contractors' awareness of the importance of submitting Daily Attendance Records (DAR), the Workers Registration Secretariat has been constantly raising the issue with contractors.

Since the implementation of the prohibition provisions of the *Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (CWRO)* in late 2007, most of the principal contractors have been acting in accordance with the statutory requirement of submitting to the Registrar of the Construction Workers the DAR of the workers working at the construction sites under their purview on a regular basis as laid down under the CWRO.

One major objective of the above requirement is to provide a reliable and centralised source of the attendance data of all construction workers practicing on local construction sites. The attendance data collected from the DAR will provide an overview of the employment situation of the construction workers and will form a database for further analysis for various purposes. The analysis can assist stakeholders of the construction industry in matters relating to labour supply as well as for strategic manpower planning and training for upcoming projects. The industry, as a whole, can benefit from the database and the associated analysis.

To accomplish the above objective, an accurate and complete database is of paramount importance. The CIC is developing a new computer system to further improve the DAR collection method. Meanwhile, the continued support from contractors in ensuring the accuracy of the DAR is important. The efforts of principal contractors in this matter are indispensable as well. Contractors are reminded of the following points:

- To record the daily attendance data of ALL workers working at ALL construction sites in the respective DAR, including workers who forgot to bring along their worker registration card;
- To capture the daily attendance data of ALL workers by means of a card reading device as far as possible; and
- To submit the DAR on time.

A well-performing computer system with an accurate and complete database can provide better quality analytical data to build a solid foundation for the industry.

ZCB

Low Carbon Shopping Fun at ZCB

This summer, ZCB will not only provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the latest eco-building technologies, but also offer shopping fun. To promote low carbon living, and to inspire people to consume eco-friendly, fresh, and local produce to lead a greener and healthier life, ZCB will organise the Low Carbon Weekend Fair in collaboration with the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies (FVMCS).



The Fair will be held at the landscaped greenery area of ZCB on Saturdays and Sundays between 24 August and 22 September 2013, and will be divided into three zones, namely “Eat Natural”, “Go Green” and “Support Local Creative”. About 20 stalls will sell environmental and local products, ranging from organic vegetables and fresh produce, healthy food, energy-efficient products, to locally designed handcraft goods and unique accessories.

Educational and environmental workshops and product demonstrations will also be featured during the Fair. This will be a great day out for families, and will offer shoppers and visitors an unparalleled holistic low carbon experience.

Overseas Delegation Visits

ZCB received several delegations from the Mainland and overseas in the past two months. The delegations comprised high ranking government officials from the Mainland, and environmental and engineering experts from overseas. The visitors were impressed with the accomplishments and the dedication of CIC ZCB in promoting low carbon building design and technologies in Hong Kong’s construction industry. The visits also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and gain valuable insights into environmental technologies and policies.

Date of Visit	Delegation
31 May 2013	Director General and Secretary of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), UK and the Regional Director, Hong Kong of ICE
1 June 2013	A delegation from Switzerland led by the Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications
28 June 2013	A delegation from Shenzhen led by the Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee
2 July 2013	A delegation of the Guangdong Development and Reform Commission



Construction Industry Training Board

Updates on Initiatives to Enhance Training Capacity

For the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS), also known as the Build Up Scheme launched in September 2010, a total of 3,377 persons will be/were trained/being trained for the short courses with 2,240 having graduated by end of June 2013.

The mandatory employment of ECMTS graduates for relevant public works contracts was promulgated by the Development Bureau in December 2012. The number of workers approved for CCTS was 675 with 389 persons having started/completed training. The detailed breakdown is as follows:-

The intake and number of graduates under the Build Up Scheme up to the end of June 2013 are as follows:

Trade	Intake up to 30 June 2013	Number of Graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	1,261	835
Timber & Aluminium Formwork	701	430
Metal Formwork & Concreting	107	93
Drainlaying	59	34
Site Surveying	381	247
Surveying and Setting-out	583	421
Metalwork	153	108
Tower Crane Worker's Assistant	44	39
Construction Scaffolding Works	68	33
Welding	20	0
Total	3,377	2,240

The intake and number of graduates under the CCTS up to the end of June 2013 are as follows:

Trade	Intake up to 30 June 2013	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	122	46
Timber Formwork	68	54
Surveying and Setting-out	51	38
Crawler Crane Operation	40	35
Ground Investigation Operator Assistant	24	20
Welding	34	9
Site Surveying	27	11
Tunnel Works	12	10
Concreting	5	1
Metal Formwork	6	6
Total	389	230

Subcontractor Cooperative Training Scheme (SCTS) including Plumbing Subcontractor Cooperative Training Scheme (PCTS)

This scheme launched in May aims to encourage subcontractors to “hire and train” through the provision of an enhanced trainee subsidy and adoption of an extended training period of six months. A total of nine trades, namely bar-bending and fixing, bricklaying, tile laying, plastering, tower crane erecting and dismantling assistant, painting, timber formwork, marble polishing and plumbing, are covered by the scheme.

The intake and number of graduates under the SCTS up to the end of June 2013 are as follows:

Trade	Intake up to 30 June 2013	Number of Graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	71	0
Painting	28	0
Timber Formwork	25	0
Plastering	3	0
Tile Laying	15	0
Marble Polishing	14	0
Tower Crane Erecting & Dismantling Assistant	12	0
Total	168	0

Amongst the trainees under the Build Up Scheme, CCTS and SCTS, about 79.6% are between the ages of 20 and 44.

Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme for E&M Trades

This is another new training scheme launched in May to encourage more people to join the E&M trades which are facing an acute manpower shortage by providing a daily training allowance of \$150.

A job fair for the scheme was held on 6 July 2013. By the end of the day, a total of 383 application forms were received for various E&M trades including electrical fitter, electrical wireman, fire service electrical fitter, fire service mechanical fitter, lift mechanic and escalator mechanic, air-conditioning mechanic (air system), air-conditioning mechanic (thermal insulation) and air-conditioning mechanic (water system).

On-the-job Training Subsidy for Employers of ECMTS/CCTS/SCTS/PCTS Graduates

This subsidy scheme will be open for applications by late August 2013 to encourage employers to provide on-the-job training and to foster longer employer-employee relationships through the provision of a subsidy to participating employers of ECMTS/CCTS/SCTS/PCTS graduates.

The Construction Industry Council encourages the industry to actively participate in these training and subsidy schemes.

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