

Construction Industry Council
Committee on Construction Safety

Meeting No. 003/19 of the Committee on Construction Safety (Com-CSY) was held on Thursday, 26 September 2019 at 2:30pm at the Board Room, CIC Headquarters, 38/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

Present: Derrick PANG (DP) Chairperson
CHAN Kim-kwong (KCCN)
CHAN Pat-kan (CPK)
Thomas HUI (HT)
LEE Sau-king (LSK)
Kenneth MO (KM)
YU Sai-yen (SYYu)
Collin CHAN (CnC) Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK)
LIU Yuk-shing (YsLu) Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE)
WONG Kwok-keung (KKW) Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors (HKFEMC)
WU Wai-hung (WHWu) Labour Department (LD)

In

Attendance : Albert CHENG (CTN) Executive Director
Richard PANG (RPg) Director – Industry Development
Angela YUEN (AaY) Senior Manager - Construction Safety
Tony LAM (TLam) Manager - Construction Safety
Anthony CHAN (AyC) Hong Kong Construction Association
Emily SER (ESe) Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA)
Timothy LAU (TyL) Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA)

Apologies: LO Hong-kam (LHK)
Connie YEUNG (CYG)
CHOW Luen-kiu (LKC)
Rex WONG (RWg) Hong Kong Construction Association
Dennis IP (DI) MTR Corporation Limited (MTRC)
Jesse WONG (JsW) Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS)

MINUTES

Action

3.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Com-CSY Meeting No. 002/19

Members took note of Meeting Minutes CIC/CSY/M/002/19 and confirmed the Meeting Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 June 2019.

3.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Agenda item 2.6 - For the suggestion of adding a function of digital wallet in a new mobile App, it had been discussed in the meeting of the Subcommittee on Safety Promotion held on 17 September. Details would be reported under agenda item 3.5 below.

Agenda item 2.10 - The revised 3-year work plan and budget 2020 were sent to Members on 19 September for endorsement. The revised work plan and budget were endorsed by all Members. For the item “Set up of CIC Centre for Construction Safety” (Safety Centre) in the budget 2020, the Executive Director (ED) of the CIC stated that the location would be quite remote if the Safety Centre were to be located at the Tai Po Campus in future. This would affect the number of visitors and hence the utilization rate. It was considered that it would be more appropriate to set up the Safety Centre and safety-related training facilities, including the Safety Experience Training Centre (SETC), in Kowloon Bay. In this regard, the plan for setting up the Safety Centre would need to be re-examined. It was decided to delete the Safety Centre action item from the work plan and budget 2020.

Agenda item 2.12 - The Council approved the publication of the Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works Volume 3 – Throughout the Occupation Stage of Building (Version 2) in the meeting held on 16 August. The publication had been uploaded onto CIC’s website since late August. Two seminars about the safety of lift shaft works would be held on 17 October.

3.3 Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Training (SST)

SYYu briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/016/19 regarding the progress of the SST.

The progress of the SST was given as follows:

- A holistic review of the existing 52 safety training courses had been completed. It was agreed that the outdated course on assistant

safety officer and its related bridging courses would be cancelled in year 2021.

- The LD had revised the approval conditions and standardized the content of the recognized confined spaces safety training, and informed all training providers including the CIC about the updated course content accordingly.
- The Experiential Learning on Site Safety 2019-2020, apart from the original one-day training, would include an additional half a day of safety experience training provided at the SETC of the HKIC this year. The opening ceremony would be held on 6 November.
- For the safety training course for divers, it was suggested that for those who enroll in the course with the intention of becoming a skilled worker should have relevant construction working experience as a diver. The CIC would explore the feasibility of the said suggestion with the relevant stakeholders. Besides, the ED of the CIC indicated that the industry stakeholders could explore the feasibility of application of new technologies so as to identify the working location of divers by a real time reporting system. They could apply for the CIC's Construction Innovation and Technology Fund.

The Chairperson indicated that Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) is a relevant new construction technology. It was suggested to organise relevant safety training courses for MiC so that the stakeholders could understand the potential risks of implementing MiC. The ED of the CIC suggested including the relevant safety training into the training courses of the HKIC.

Members took note of the progress of the SST.

3.4 Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Technical Issues (STI)

CnC briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/017/19 regarding the progress of the STI.

The progress of the STI was given as follows:

- The research project, "Optimal Use of Internet of Things Technology (IoT) to Prevent Failure of Temporary Support System in Construction", was on schedule. It was estimated that the first batch of prototype would be completed by mid-November. After that, testing would be conducted at the Chu Hai College of Higher Education of Hong Kong before taking trials at construction sites.
- For sharing of good practice on works near false ceilings,

information on good practice had been collected. The Subcommittee members agreed to produce a pictorial safety reference material document. The draft would be sent to Members for comments once finished.

Members took note of the progress of the STI.

3.5 Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Promotion (SSP)

AyC briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/018/19 regarding the progress of the SSP.

The progress of the SSP was given as follows:

- In the follow-up to the CSW 2019 “Site Safety Gathering”, 94 VR experience sets had been distributed. With positive response from the sites, the Subcommittee members suggested developing a new training software in 2020 while construction sites could purchase relevant VR facilities by themselves for safety training.
- The Stakeholders had been consulted on the proposed functions of the new mobile App, including the digital wallet and daily wages recording. They indicated that they welcomed some of suggested functions, e.g. digital wallet, while further discussion would be required for other suggested functions. The SSP proposed to develop the new mobile App in phases and the first phase would be related to the electronic storage of cards and certificates issued by the CIC.
- The Chairman of CIC had suggested that the Considerate Contractors Site Award Scheme (CCSAS) could make reference to the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited’s internal promotion programme for safety and volunteer works under which the awarded sites of the CCSAS could get certain amount of funding for organising voluntary work. It was noted that the scale of the awarded sites could vary and some sites might be jointly managed by different companies. Therefore, it was necessary to discuss further with the Development Bureau (DEVB) to explore the feasibility of the said suggestion.

Members took note of the progress of the SSP.

3.6 Progress of the Task Force on Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds (TF-TOB)

TLam briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/019/19 regarding the progress of the TF-TOB.

The progress of the TF-TOB was given as follows:

- Members held discussion on a comparatively user-friendly planking material that was used by a main contractor in Hong Kong. The CIC Secretariat would try to coordinate a site visit for members who are interested in this.
- Several meetings had been held with key stakeholders for preparing the truss-out scaffolds safety guidelines. Five common types of truss-out scaffolds were identified to develop typical designs by engineering calculation and load test (including requirement on height limit, number of and distance between steel brackets, number of rakers and the raking angle, etc.).
- The LD shared with Members the judgment of a High Court case which had been subsequently appealed to the Court of Final Appeal. The case involved an accident in which a worker fell to his death from height while erecting a truss-out scaffold. It was held that the Competent Person (CP) who immediately supervises workmen carrying out scaffolding works shall not actively engage himself or herself in such works. Some members expressed their concerns on whether this judgment would affect other legislation. The LD considered such judgment might be applied to provisions that require a CP discharging his or her duty of “immediate supervision”. Members suggested the LD to review relevant legislation and let the industry know clearly about the scenarios that the judgment is applicable. The Chairperson recommended that the industry shall review the situation as necessary and discuss with the LD to clarify the relevant requirements on CP.

Members took note of the progress of the TOB.

3.7 Progress of the Task Force on Reviewing the Safety Responsibilities and Roles of Key Stakeholders (TF-SRR)

DP briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/020/19 regarding the progress of the TF-SRR.

The Progress of the TF-SRR was given as follows:

- The TF-SRR was currently reviewing the roles of main contractor and sub-contractor.
- Unistress Building Construction Limited presented their worker-scoring scheme to Members. The Chairperson suggested such a scheme could be considered as one of the discussion items in future.
- The Chairperson concluded that the most important tasks suggested by members included the review of the Pay for Safety

Scheme and the implementation of Design for Safety. The Task Force would report to the Com-CSY and the Council once the review process is completed. The Chairperson mentioned that additional resource and setup of individual working groups might be required for those tasks.

- The progress of the study on safety roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the Hong Kong construction industry was noted by Members. The Phase I report had been circulated to Members for comments. The review of key stakeholders for critical processes in different cities was being conducted under the Phase II study and was expected to be completed by early next year.

Members took note of the progress of the TF-SRR.

3.8 Research Study – Health Profiling of Construction Workers in Hong Kong

AaY briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/021/19 regarding the research study – Health Profiling of Construction Workers in Hong Kong.

The representative from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University briefed Members on the final report on their research project - Health Profiling of Construction Workers in Hong Kong. Members approved the said final report.

The Chairperson suggested referring the report to the Subcommittee on Safety Promotion for reference. The ED of the CIC supplemented that the report could be relayed to the Subcommittee on Worker Development and Welfare for their reference in promoting workers' health.

CIC
Secretariat

[Post-meeting notes: The CIC Secretariat had relayed the said report to the Subcommittee on Worker Development and Welfare for their reference.]

3.9 Application for the Research Funding - Development Enhancements to A Smart Helmet

AaY gave a presentation on the application for the research funding - Development Enhancements to A Smart Helmet.

The application had been discussed in last meeting. The applicant had replied to the questions raised by Members and the relevant

information had been presented during the meeting.

Members commented that the price of the smart helmet was too high compared to the traditional safety helmet, which would affect its popularity. It was also noted that there was a wristband with similar functions. The Chairperson suggested the CIC Secretariat to send an email to Members after the meeting to invite them to vote whether CIC should approve the said application of research funding.

CIC
Secretariat

[Post-meeting notes: The CIC Secretariat had subsequently sent email and supplementary information to Members to invite them to vote whether CIC should approve the said application of research funding. Among Members, 4 agreed and 11 disagreed to support the application of research funding. In this regard, the above application was not approved by the Com-CSY.]

3.10 Suggestion on Revision of the Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather

AaY briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/022/19 regarding the suggestion on revision of the Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather.

The representative from the LD briefed Members on the suggested revision on the Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather (Guidelines), including adding the provision of sun protection arm sleeves and neck shades for safety helmets for workers.

In the meeting, Members indicated that they were in support of the said revision. As the said revision would be related to the operation of sites and there would be extra expense (especially for the main contractor and sub-contractor), the CIC Secretariat would send the information by email to Members and their relevant organisations for consultation after the meeting. Members were requested to give their comments to the CIC Secretariat within two weeks.

CIC
Secretariat

The representative from the DEVB noted that the Guidelines have been included as a standard contract requirement at present, and hence the revised Guidelines would be applicable to the respective government contracts immediately once approved.

[Post-meeting notes: The CIC Secretariat had subsequently sent the information to Members by email for consultation and did not receive any comment from Members by end of October.]

3.11 Report of Recent Activities

AaY briefed Members on the recent activities be held as follows:

- (a) Two seminars on safety of lift shaft works were arranged to be held at the CIC Construction Innovation and Technology Application Centre on 17 October.
- (b) A sharing session for Site Safety Gathering, which is the continuity activity of the Construction Safety Week 2019, was arranged to be held at the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Building on 4 November.
- (c) An opening ceremony of the Experiential Learning on Site Safety 2019-20 was arranged to be held at Noah's Ark, Ma Wan on 6 November.

3.12 Any Other Business

There were no other items raised.

3.13 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 28 November 2019 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at the Board Room, 38/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

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

CIC Secretariat
September 2019