

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme

Meeting No. 003/20 of the Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (Com-RSC) for 2020 was held on 9 September 2020 (Wednesday) at 2:30pm at Boardroom, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five (MegaBox), 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay.

Summary Notes of the Com-RSC Meeting No. 003/20:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
-	-	<p>The Chairperson of Com-RSC welcomed 7 newly joined members and expressed gratitude to members of the new term of office for their engagement in the work of the CIC and support in the implementation of the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (the Scheme).</p> <p>The CIC Chairman stated that the Scheme was one of the major works of the CIC, with an aim of enhancing professionalism of subcontractors, which played an important role in the long-term development of the construction industry. He hoped that the new term of Com-RSC would continue to promote the Scheme relentlessly.</p>
3.1	CIC/RSC/M/002/20 (for approval)	<p>Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Meeting Members confirmed the minutes of the previous Meeting No. 002/20 held on 3 June 2020.</p>
3.2	-	<p>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting Members noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Development Bureau had reminded all approved contractors for public works in the letter of 17 July 2020 that imposition of tender limits on relevant subcontracts undertaken by Group 1 Registered Specialist Trade Contractors (RSTCs) will take effect for public works projects to be invited for tenders on or after 1 October 2020. Group 1 RSTCs would then not be allowed to tender for subcontracts of value exceeding the maximum amount set for their respective grouping; and

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Com-RSC Chairperson had issued reminder letters to company directors of all Group 1 RSTCs on 20 July 2020 with regards to the implementation date of the tender limits of relevant subcontracts for public works, and urged eligible companies to upgrade their registration grouping as soon as possible.
3.3	CIC/RSC/P/028/20 (for approval)	<p>Proposal for the Addition of “Plastering” as Designated Trade</p> <p>In response to the request raised by the Association of Plastering Sub-contractors Limited (APSC) in early August 2020 for adding “Plastering” as the 8th designated trade under the Scheme, members deliberated on the guiding principles, procedures and registration arrangements, which included the brief scope of designated trade, tender limits, registration requirements and transitional arrangements and etc. as stipulated in the “Rules and Procedures for the Register of Specialist Trade Contractors” (“Rules and Procedures”), and met with the representatives from APSC to understand the operation and characteristics of the trade. Com-RSC then approved the addition of “Plastering” into the Scheme as the 8th designated trade and corresponding amendments of the “Rules and Procedures”. The framework and grouping of registration requirements for “Plastering” would remain consistent with the seven existing designated trades, but appropriate adjustments could be made in accordance with the characteristics of the trade.</p> <p>Regarding the timetable for implementation, preparation work would be completed in the fourth quarter of this year, and officially implemented on 1 January 2021. After the first year of implementation, tender limits would be imposed on public works contracts (i.e. contracts under the Development Bureau and Housing Authority) for Group 1 companies. Afterwards, existing registered companies shall register under new requirements within the transitional period to be ended by the second year of implementation.</p> <p>The Secretariat had arranged a dedicated webinar on 24 September 2020 for existing registered subcontractors in “plastering” and explained to them the registration arrangement and timetable for implementation.</p>

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
3.4	CIC/RSC/P/029/20 (for information)	<p>Operation Reports on the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme As of the end of August 2020, the number of registered companies continued to increase and reached 7,055 (The number of registered companies at the end of April 2020 was 6,492), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1,600 RSTCs (498 of which were RSTCs under the seven designated trades; 1,102 of which were both RSTCs and registered subcontractors (RS)); and ● 5,455 RS. <p>For the registration status of Group 2 RSTCs, the number of registered companies increased to 84 (including those pending for official approval) after a series of enhanced promotion to relevant stakeholders directly, while 54 applications were in process. (The number of registered companies at the end of April 2020: 31).</p> <p>The 2nd Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme Leadership Summit would be held online in the afternoon of 27 November 2020, with the theme of “The “New Normal” in Construction Industry – Digitalization and Innovation”. The summit aimed to further promote digitalised construction management and application of innovative technology, with the participation of members from the “Young Leaders Network” under the Scheme during the sharing session.</p> <p>Members also took note of the tentative schedule for the four meetings and regulatory hearings in 2021.</p>
3.5	-	<p>Any Other Business Nil.</p>
3.6	CIC/RSC/P/030/20 - CIC/RSC/P/037/20 (for information)	<p>Regulatory Hearing The third regulatory hearing of 2020 was conducted. A total of eight registered companies were sanctioned with written warning or suspension of registration due to late payment of MPF contributions and wages of workers.</p>

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