

Construction Industry Council
Construction Workers Registration Board

Meeting No. 001/14 of the Construction Workers Registration Board was held on Wednesday, 29 January 2014 at 3:30 pm at Meeting Room 1, CIC Headquarters, 15/F, Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Summary notes of the Construction Workers Registration Board (CWRB) Meeting No. 001/14:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
1.1	CIC/CRB/M/007/13	<p><u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting</u> Members confirmed the revised minutes of the 7th meeting of CWRB for 2013.</p>
1.2.2		<p><u>Matters Arising from the Last Meeting</u> Starting from January 2014, a staff member from Hong Kong Construction Employees General Union was assigned to man the temporary counter twice a week at the Workers Registration Office in Kowloon Bay to distribute leaflets and to help workers to register for lung examination.</p>
1.4.1	CIC/CRB/P/001/14 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Workers Registration Offices</u> Members took note of various registration figures. Chairman suggested that the third round of the survey would target to conduct telephone interview with 126,063 workers whose registration cards had expired but did not apply for renewal. The sample survey will be conducted to find out the reasons for not renewing the registration card and what could be done to attract those workers to renew their registration and back to the construction industry.</p>
1.4.2	CIC/CRB/P/002/14 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Inspection and Enforcement</u> Two inspectors – Mr. Starman Ng and Mr. Jacky Wong had completed the Departmental Prosecutors Training Course organised by the Department of Justice. CWRB unanimously endorsed and authorized Mr. Ng and Mr. Wong to act as prosecutors as stipulated under</p>

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		Clause 60(b) of Construction Workers Registration Ordinance. Final approval must be sought from the Council.
1.4.3	CIC/CRB/P/003/14 (Progress Report and Resolution)	<p><u>Sub-Committee on Specified Training Courses</u> CWRB approved the task force to be re-named to “Sub-Committee on Specified Training Courses and Registration Arrangements for Senior Workers”. The terms of reference would also be revised by expanding the scope to study and discuss the proposed registration arrangements for senior workers and to make recommendations to CWRB. A framework for assessment mechanism would be developed and submitted to CWRB for deliberation at the next scheduled meeting.</p>
1.4.4	CIC/CRB/P/004/14 (for Resolution)	<p><u>Sub-Committee on Registration Matters</u> <u>Approval of adding new trades</u> 1)Cable Jointer (Power) (Medium Voltage) - the proposed description of work was “to join dead cables with voltage not exceeding 11kV”; 2) False Ceiling Worker - the proposed description of work was “to install non-wooden false ceiling”; 3) Partition (Metal Frame) Worker - the proposed description of work was “to install partitions with metal frames and panels (excluding glass)”. <u>Approval of revising the names of trades to</u> 1) “Lift Mechanic (exempted under Chapter 618)”; 2) “Escalator Mechanic (exempted under Chapter 618)”; 3) “Gas Installer (exempted under Chapter 51)”; 4) “Electrical Fitter (exempted under Chapter 406)” and 5) “Diver (Construction Work)”. <u>Confirmation of the names of newly-added trades as</u> 1)“Construction Goods Vehicle Driver (Master)”; 2) “Marine Construction Plant Operator (Lifting) (Master)”; 3) “Electronic Equipment Mechanic (Construction Work) (Master)”; and 4) “Plant and Equipment Mechanic (Construction Work) (Master).</p>

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		<p><u>Approval of revising the job description</u> “Plant & Equipment Operator (Excavator)” - the proposed description of work was revised to “to operate excavators (except to demolish, dismantle and remove buildings or structures, or any part thereof)”.</p>
1.4.5	CIC/CRB/P/005/14 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Task Force on Data Analysis</u> Members noted the data collected over a 12-month period between 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2013. To avoid confusion and to maintain consistency, the Task Force would discuss with DEVB and come up with some key figures for release and public announcement. A briefing session on “Construction Workers Registration Data Analysis” was organised on 20 January 2014 at Resource Centre in Kowloon Bay. The event was well-attended by 73 participants from trade associations and unions, DEVB and relevant government departments, public organisations, professional bodies and the academic institutions.</p>
1.4.6	CIC/CRB/P/006/14 (Progress Report and for Resolution)	<p><u>Progress Report on the Development of Construction Workers Registration System (CWRS)</u> The following information would be printed and saved in the new worker registration card:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validity period of registration card; • Trade information, green card information and other certificates related to construction industry. The updated data would be saved on the chip and retrieved by a card-reader; • The chip could store 240 attendance records; • Workers could view their information and attendance records on the card through NFC-enabled smart phones or at self-service kiosks; and • A sentence “Unlawful use of another person’s registration card is a serious criminal offence” would be printed on the card in red to remind workers not to use the registration cards of another person;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force on CWRS would further discuss with DevB on how to handle biometric data. To be carried out in phases, the Task Force proposed to assist contractors to replace the card reading devices for approximately 1,000 construction sites across the territory within 6 months before officially issuing the new registration cards. During the transition period between the old and new systems, there might be a need to pay additional fee to the current service provider, Qesco to modify the setting of the old system in order to register and issue new workers registration cards with 5-year validity as required by the CWRO to be amended as well as to extend its system maintenance service contract until the new system could be fully launched to replace the old system. <p>With respect to the development of CWRS, a number of follow-up actions to be taken by the Task Force and Workers Registration Secretariat were listed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to seek professional advice on personal data protection and privacy of workers; • to liaise with card-issuing organisations or government departments concerning saving information of certificates related to construction industry on the chip of the registration cards; • to understand and discuss the feasibility of integrating the new registration system with the card reading system developed by the contractors; and • to promote CWRS to the industry including the organisation of four briefing sessions in mid-February to introduce the functions and features of the new registration system.
1.4.7	CIC/CRB/P/007/14 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Task Force on Amendments to CWRO</u></p> <p>Approved by CWRB, the proposed amendments to CWRO were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to add the registration of plant and equipment operator for attached mechanical equipment on “concrete mixer trucks” and “mobile concrete pumps”; • to include the construction contracts with value not exceeding \$10 million into stage 2 of the remaining phase of prohibition;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to recommend adopting the existing review and appeal mechanisms to the proposed senior workers registration arrangement; • the proposed senior workers registration arrangement was not applicable to skills that required specific registration qualifications; • the Secretary for Development could publish in the Gazette announcing starting from a specified date, the application for the proposed senior workers registration no longer be accepted and its arrangement no longer be applicable; • to continue accepting application for provisional registration. The Secretary for Development could publish in the Gazette announcing the application no longer be accepted starting from a specified date; • to require contractors to submit accurate daily attendance records of workers. Contractors submitting false or misleading attendance records without justifiable reasons would commit a criminal offence.
1.5		<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>The following goals were proposed by Chairman in 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to study measures to save the time applying for and renewing the workers registrations; • to conduct pre-review procedures for senior workers prior to the implementation of the CWRO to be amended; and • Chaired by Mr. Rex Wong, a new task force would be established to investigate, collect and analyze the reasons for workers remaining on inactive status and those who left construction industry. The task force would also provide recommendations on how to attract them back to the industry.