

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Construction Site Safety

Meeting No. 003/11 of Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) was held on Friday, 16 September 2011 at 2:30p.m. at Meeting Room No. 1, CIC Headquarters, 15/F, Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

The following items have been discussed at Com-CSS Meeting No. 003/11:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights
3.1	CIC/CSS/R/002/11	Confirmation of the Progress Report – Members of the Com-CSS confirmed the Progress Report CIC/CSS/R/002/11 of the last meeting held on 17 June 2011.
3.2	CIC/CSS/R/002/11	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting – Labour Department (LD) had provided preliminary information and analysis on high risk construction activities to CIC Secretariat on 9 September 2011. CIC Secretariat would study the information and further discuss it with the Chairperson of the Task Force on Review of Major Construction Method Statements to decide the scope for the consultancy study.

3.3	Nil	<p>Experience Sharing with main contractors - Three main contractors with exposure in overseas countries (i.e. Gammon, Leighton, and Dragages) were invited to share their experience on how they successfully adopted their overseas experience on site housekeeping, cleanliness and tidiness at the construction sites in Hong Kong. In the presentation, various suggestions were raised by the main contractors including the concept of area management, using pictorial presentation to facilitate communication and promulgation with workers, implementation of site layout plan, and core elements of housekeeping in construction sites. Members invited the Chairperson of Task Force on Site Cleanliness and Tidiness to consider the measures for general application in Hong Kong and follow up this issue.</p>
3.4	CIC/CSS/P/020/11	<p>Strengths of Hong Kong Construction Industry – Members were invited to deliberate on the topic and they pointed out that when comparing with the Mainland China, the Strengths of Hong Kong Construction Industry included co-ordinated project management experience, integrity and responsibilities of relevant personnel, the competency of the site workers and the implementation and supervision of site safety.</p>
3.5	CIC/CSS/P/021/11	<p>The Issuance of Site Safety Alert - Members noted that CIC Secretariat would follow up with the disclaimer of the Safety Alert. The revised Safety Alert on Fabrication of Reinforcement Cages of Bored Piles (Safety Alert on FRCBP) would be circulated to the current core members (i.e. Informal Working Group Chair, Labour Department and Buildings Department) for their final review prior to issue.</p> <p>Membership List of the Informal Working Group on Site Safety Incidents - Members agreed that in addition to the Working Group Chairperson Mr Victor Kwong, the proposed members for the Informal Working Group would comprise of the representative(s) from Labour Department (LD), Buildings Department (BD), Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) and workers union while ad-hoc members would be appointed on a needed basis.</p>

3.6	CIC/CSS/P/022/11	Guidelines on the Application of Pay for Safety Scheme (PFSS) - An informal meeting with DevB, BD and HA was held on 23 August 2011. It was considered that the key objectives and the content of the Guidelines should be revised. The revised Guidelines should aim at encouraging industry stakeholders to take concerted efforts in improving site safety performance by adopting the “pay-for-safety” principle. It should allow flexibility to both public and private sectors in its implementation for different projects. It was proposed to formulate an informal ad-hoc working group comprising of representatives from DevB, HA, BD, LD, REDA and HKCA to review the content of the Guidelines.
3.7	CIC/CSS/P/023/11	Task Force on Site Safety of Refuse Disposal – Members noted that certain level of the works under the new Working Group on Site Safety Incidents would overlap with one of the existing Task Forces (i.e. Task Force on Site Safety of Refuse Disposal). Members agreed that the existing Task Force on Site Safety of Refuse Disposal would be reformed to the Task Force on Site Cleanliness and Tidiness to expand its existing scope to include exploring measures in promoting cleanliness and tidiness at construction sites. Members endorsed the proposed Terms of Reference and Membership of the reformed Task Force chaired by Prof. Francis Wong.
3.8	CIC/CSS/P/024/11	Progress of Activities of the Task Force on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shaft – Members noted that the draft Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works (Volume 2) would be reviewed by the Task Force in late September 2011 and the final draft was planned for submission to the Com-CSS at its next meeting for endorsement.

3.9	Verbal Report	<p>Progress of Activities of the Task Force on Working in Hot Weather - Members took note of the progress of the HKU Research Team on the Hot Weather Research Study. The Research Team was working on the review of current practices and the draft review should be completed shortly. Members took note of the difficulties of the works being conducted during on-site research and the overall study might take a longer period than planned. It was envisaged that there might be an overall 4 to 6 months delay in the programme (i.e. It was expected to be completed in April - June 2012). It was suggested the Study and the revised guidelines should preferably be completed by the Research Team on or before the summer months of next year.</p>
3.10	CIC/CSS/P/025/11	<p>Progress of Activities of the Task Force on Site Safety Training – Members noted that the training requirements for site management and supervisory staff, as well the syllabi and the exemption requirements for the proposed training were almost finalized by the Informal Working Group. DevB and HA also agreed to include the abovementioned safety training requirements into their future work contracts. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the relevant stakeholders soliciting their views and comments on the proposed syllabi and exemption criteria.</p>
3.11	Verbal Report	<p>Progress of Activities of the Task Force on Safety of Repair, Maintenance, Alternations and Additions (RMAA) Sites – Members noted that the Task Force meeting was held on 12 September 2011. It was noted that the feasibility to adopt Pay for Safety Scheme (PFSS) in RMAA sites and the possibility of hanging banners and posters to promote safety precautionary measures at sites of Operation Building Bright (OBB) projects had been discussed in the Task Force meeting.</p> <p>The representative of DevB was requested to invite the relevant branch of the Bureau to consider applying the pay for safety principle when providing loans or grants for private building maintenance projects.</p>

3.12	Verbal Report	Technical Guidelines for the Design, Installation and Maintenance of Cast-in Anchor Devices – Members noted that the Guidelines were issued on 8 July 2011. The Director of Buildings would consider issuing a Practice Note for AP on the Technical Guidelines.
3.13	Verbal Report	Guidelines on Handling Construction Work Injury and Fatal Accident Cases – Members noted that the Guidelines were issued on 22 July 2011.
3.14	AOB	Task Force on Safety of Tower Cranes – Members noted that Mr Thomas Ho had resigned from any chairmanship for the Task Force under Com-CSS noted and endorsed the appointment of Mr Danton Lee of Gammon as the chairperson of the Task Force on Safety of Tower Cranes. (Post Meeting Note: Mr Danton Lee of Gammon verbally accepted the appointment by the Com-CSS as the Task Force Chairperson on Safety of Tower Cranes.)
3.14	AOB	Short term, medium term and long term strategies for Com-CSS – Members were requested to brainstorm the short term, medium term and long term strategies for improving site safety in light of the recent spate of safety incidents. The Secretariat would take stock of the short, medium and long term measures underway and those previously discussed for members’ review and comment within 2 weeks after reviewing the Secretariat’s stock taking document.