

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (RSTCS)

Meeting No. 001/24 of the Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (Com-RSC) for 2024 was held on 18 January 2024 (Thursday) at 2:00 pm at Boardroom, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay and via video conferencing.

Summary Notes of the Com-RSC Meeting No. 001/24:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
1.1	CIC/RSC/M/005/23 (for approval)	Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Meeting Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 November 2023.
1.2	---	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting Nil.
1.3	CIC/RSC/P/002/24 (for information)	Brainstorming on Continuous Improvement of Construction Safety for Specialist Trade Contractors and Subcontractors The Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (RSTCS) has launched the immediate suspension of the registration mechanism to review the safety system on 1 January 2024, the production of Designated Trade Good Practice Manuals, the continuous promotion of the Smart Site Safety System (4S), and safety-related seminars, etc. The CIC has designated 2024 as the “Year of Safety”. Members discussed to further motivate specialist trade contractors and subcontractors to enhance construction safety on a sustainable basis. The key points were summarised below:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="748 248 2074 405">(a) To explore the enhancement of safety-related registration requirements, such as considering stipulating the number of hours on safety training in the continuous professional development (CPD), encouraging companies to organise safety training and morning briefings for their staff, etc., to raise safety awareness. <li data-bbox="748 448 2074 488">(b) To encourage contractors to share and learn from each other to improve construction safety. <li data-bbox="748 531 2074 647">(c) To promote the implementation of the “Pay for Safety Scheme” by private developers, to include construction safety scores in the criteria for selecting subcontractors, and to review the tendering system based on the “Lowest Bidder Wins” principle. <li data-bbox="748 691 2074 767">(d) To encourage private developers to engage registered specialist trade contractors (RSTCs) and registered subcontractors (RSs) for their projects. <li data-bbox="748 810 2074 967">(e) CIC and the industry set up a working group to discuss different combinations of 4S with a list of suppliers and their quotations for application in different types of construction sites attached, and to promote the utilisation of the funding support from the “Construction Innovation and Technology Fund”. <li data-bbox="748 1010 2074 1246">(f) To support the “Frontline Staff Points System” but at the same time provide incentives to encourage continuous safety improvement. There were a lot of specifications and requirements on construction projects relying on the frontline staff’s enforcement. Therefore, management should listen more to the needs of workers, understand their working environment, seek suggestions for improvement, and promote a no-safe-no-do culture. <li data-bbox="748 1289 2074 1409">(g) To enhance promotion of the RSTCS to industry stakeholders, in particular the newly introduced mechanism for immediate suspension from registration due to serious incidents to help the registered companies to review its safety system, to encourage more stakeholders

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		<p>to adopt the RSTCS and pay attention to the notices of regulatory actions available on the CIC website.</p> <p>(h) More than 45% of the fatal incidents in 2023 are related to renovation and maintenance works, and fatal incidents also occurred in the demolition of village houses. Currently, there were more than 1,400 RSTCs in repairs, maintenance, alteration and addition (RMAA) and demolition. We should step up the publicity of RSTCS to encourage industry stakeholders to engage RSTCs.</p> <p>(i) As supervisors from specialist trade contractors and subcontractors were responsible for management on construction sites, their safety awareness was very important. More supervisors should be encouraged to attend relevant courses offered by the Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC). Meanwhile, contractors were encouraged to strengthen site training for their supervisors, recognise qualified supervisors and screen suitable supervisors.</p> <p>(j) As there were several lifting and electrical related accidents in 2023, the fatalities were not due to work schedules but bad practices. There was an urgent need for the industry to work together to promote good practices, conduct dynamic risk assessment as well as upgrade “Site Lifting Operations” and “Electrical and Mechanical” to the designated trades of the RSTCS.</p> <p>The Com-RSC has formulated a work plan for follow-up actions relating to the RSTCS.</p>
1.4	CIC/RSC/P/003/24 (for approval)	<p>Proposed Addition of “Painting”, “Metal Work” and “Structural Steelwork” as Designated Trades</p> <p>Members noted that the Hong Kong Painting Contractors Association and the Hong Kong Metal Engineering Contracting Association proposed to add “Painting”, “Metal Work” and “Structural</p>

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		<p>Steelwork” as designated trades respectively. Members discussed the proposed new designated trades. Having considered the views of members and/or the Association(s), the Com-RSC made the following decisions.</p> <p>(a) To approve the addition of "Metal Work" as a designated trade under the RSTCS.</p> <p>(b) The Secretariat would follow up on members’ views on the registration requirements for the designated trade of “Structural Steelwork”.</p> <p>(c) To approve in principle the addition of “Painting” as a designated trade under the RSTCS. The Secretariat would follow up on members’ views on the registration requirements for the designated trade of “Painting”.</p> <p>The Secretariat would amend the Rules and Procedures of the RSTCS with the implementation date to be confirmed.</p>
1.5	CIC/RSC/P/004/24 (for information)	<p>RSTCS Operation Report</p> <p>Members took note of the Operation Report. As of the end of December 2023, the total number of registered companies was 7,290 (October 2023: 7,377) in which 1,956 (October 2023: 2,061) were RSTCs and 5,334 (October 2023: 5,316) were RSs.</p>
1.6	-	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Members noted that the Chairperson, Ir Chan Chi-chiu, would retire on 31 January 2024. On behalf of Members and the Secretariat, the Executive Director thanked Ir Chan for his service and contribution to the Com-RSC.</p>

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1.7	-	<p>Date of the Next Meeting</p> <p>Members noted that Meeting No. 002/24 of the Com-RSC for 2024 would be held on 20 March 2024 (Wednesday) at 2:00 pm at Boardroom, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay.</p>
1.8	CIC/RSC/P/005/24 (for information)	<p>Follow-up Report on Suspected Non-compliance Cases</p> <p>Members noted that the Secretariat had issued reminder letters to the relevant registered companies in respect of two suspected but unconvicted cases of non-compliance referred by the Housing Department.</p>
1.9	CIC/RSC/P/006/24 (for approval)	<p>Regulatory Action</p> <p>Members noted that as of 31 December 2023, there were 23 conviction cases which met the guiding principles for issuance of written warnings. Members approved the issuance of written warnings to the registered companies.</p>
1.10	CIC/RSC/P/007/24- CIC/RSC/P/012/24 (for approval)	<p>Regulatory Hearing</p> <p>The Com-RSC imposed a total of six regulatory actions of written warnings and suspension due to violation of 58(7)(b) and 58(8) of the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (CWRO) and for being ordered by the Court to pay arrears to the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA).</p>

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