

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (Com-RSC)
Summary of Meeting No. 004/25

Key Highlights

1. Item 4.3 - Registration Arrangements under Temporary Relief Measures

In response to serious concerns raised by industry stakeholders regarding the continued downturn in the private construction market and based on market intelligence provided by major trade associations and relevant data from the Buildings Department, the Secretariat drafted the registration arrangements under temporary relief measures for Com-RSC's consideration. These measures aim to support the industry in overcoming current market challenges and to prevent losing Group 2 registered companies due to market volatility. Key measures include the temporary relaxation of the number of technical personnel and workers being employed, company capital, and the extension of the time limit for completed job records. These measures aim to mitigate the impact of the recent market downturn. Additionally, those companies registered under the first 14 designated trades would be granted a one-off extension of their registration validity by one year, providing additional buffer time for renewal process. Meanwhile, Com-RSC would continue reviewing registration requirements under the established mechanism. Following the first review conducted in 2022–23, another round of comprehensive review of the registration requirements for all the 21 designated trades would be scheduled for the end of 2025 which would take into account the latest market conditions and the implementation of the above relief measures, with adjustments to be made as appropriate.

2. Item 4.4 – RSTCS Operation Report

In addition to the continued implementation of the Immediate Suspension, the Secretariat strengthened the handling of serious near-miss incidents by meeting with the management representatives of the seven companies involved in six incidents for them to explain the circumstances and solemnly requesting them for comprehensive review and enforcement of corrective actions to prevent any recurrence. The CIC also timely issued press releases to inform industry stakeholders and members of the public accordingly.

3. Item 4.5 - Any Other Business

In accordance with the CIC's procurement procedures, the Com-RSC approved the nomination of Mr. POON Ka-keung to represent the committee on the Tender Assessment Panel for the Supply of Designated Metal Brackets for the registered companies of TOS under the RSTCS. The tender recommendation was approved via circulation on 2 September 2025 by the Com-RSC, while the notification letter was signed off by the Executive Director on the same day to confirm the selected supplier.

4. Item 4.8-4.9 - Regulatory Actions

The Com-RSC imposed regulatory actions of suspension of registration and issuance of written warnings against a total of 19 companies due to prosecution by relevant departments or violation of the relevant legislations concerning the late payment of wages and MPF contributions, late submission of workers daily attendance records, misconduct or suspected misconduct, as well as convictions in fatal incidents by the respective registered companies.

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (RSTCS)

Meeting No. 004/25 of the Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (Com-RSC) for 2025 was held on 20 August 2025 (Wednesday) 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. 004/25:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
4.1	CIC/RSC/M/002/25 & CIC/RSC/M/003/25 (for approval)	Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Meeting Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 May 2025 and 11 June 2025.
4.2	-	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting Nil.
4.3	CIC/RSC/P/057/25 (for approval)	Registration Arrangements under Temporary Relief Measures In response to serious concerns raised by industry stakeholders regarding the continued downturn in the private construction market and based on market intelligence provided by major trade associations and relevant data from the Buildings Department, the Secretariat drafted the registration arrangements under temporary relief measures for Com-RSC's consideration. These measures aim to support the industry in overcoming current market challenges and to prevent

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		losing Group 2 registered companies due to market volatility. Members exchanged views and after deliberations, the Com-RSC approved the proposed measures for immediate implementation. Key measures include the temporary relaxation of the number of technical personnel and workers being employed, company capital, and the extension of the time limit for completed job records. These measures aim to mitigate the impact of the recent market downturn. Additionally, those companies registered under the first 14 designated trades would be granted a one-off extension of their registration validity by one year, providing additional buffer time for renewal process. Meanwhile, Com-RSC would continue reviewing registration requirements under the established mechanism. Following the first review conducted in 2022–23, another round of comprehensive review of the registration requirements for all the 21 designated trades would be scheduled for the end of 2025 which would take into account the latest market conditions and the implementation of the above relief measures, with adjustments to be made as appropriate.
4.4	CIC/RSC/P/058/25 (for information)	RSTCS Operation Report Members took note that as of the end of July 2025, there were a total of 6,987 registered companies (April 2025: 7,022), comprising 2,291 Registered Specialist Trade Contractors (April 2025: 2,310) and 4,696 Registered Subcontractors (April 2025: 4,712), along with the following key developments: (a) The immediate suspension mechanism introduced in 2024 had addressed 13 serious incidents, resulting in the suspension of registration for 23 companies. Of these, 15 companies had completed safety audits and resumed registration, while the remaining eight were still under suspension. The Secretariat also strengthened the handling of serious near-miss incidents by meeting with the management representatives of the seven companies involved in six incidents for them to explain the circumstances and solemnly requesting them

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
		for comprehensive review and enforcement of corrective actions to prevent any recurrence. The CIC also timely issued press releases to inform industry stakeholders and members of the public accordingly. (b) As of 10 September 2025, the number of registered companies for "Truss-out Scaffolding" ("TOS") was increased to 24. Around 20 more companies were undergoing safety audits to be arranged by the Occupational Safety and Health Council or in discussions with the Employees' Compensation Insurance Residual Scheme Bureau Limited for procurement of suitable employees' compensation insurance. The open tendering for suppliers of the subsidised exchange programme for TOS metal brackets was completed with the target to confirm within September. Legal vetting of the application forms and promotional materials were completed. (c) The 18-month transitional arrangement for Group I registered companies in the six newly added designated trades in 2024 namely Painting, Metalwork, Structural Steelwork, Horticultural, Arboricultural and Skyrise Greenery Works (S15 to S20) would be expired on 31 October 2025. The Secretariat had repeatedly reminded directors/proprietors of relevant registered companies via regular workshops, emails, and formal letters to submit required documents before the deadline, otherwise they would be delisted. Another online briefing session was also held on 8 August for members of the Hong Kong Greening Contractors Association to explain with them again on the transitional arrangements. (d) The Secretariat organised two events on 19 and 24 June which focused on the application of innovative robotics and visits to the Centre for Future Construction, attracting around 150 youth leaders of the scheme and management personnel. On 22 July, an online seminar titled "Application of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance in the Construction Industry" was held to introduce the integrity management responsibilities of registered companies and shared relevant case studies with a total of 1,150 online participants.

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4.5	-	Any Other Business In accordance with the CIC's procurement procedures, the Com-RSC approved the nomination of Mr. POON Ka-keung to represent the committee on the Tender Assessment Panel for the Supply of Designated Metal Brackets for the registered companies of TOS under the RSTCS. The tender recommendation was approved via circulation on 2 September 2025 by the Com-RSC, while the notification letter was signed off by the Executive Director on the same day to confirm the selected supplier.
4.6	-	Date of the Next Meeting Members took note the Meeting No. 005/25 of the Com-RSC for 2025 would be held on 19 November 2025 (Wednesday) at 2:00 pm in the Boardroom, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay.
4.7	CIC/RSC/P/059/25 (for information)	Follow-up Report on Suspected Non-compliance Cases Members noted that the Secretariat had issued reminder letters to eight registered companies which were referred by relevant departments for suspected but not convicted late payment of wages.
4.8-4.9	CIC/RSC/P/060/25- CIC/RSC/P/064/25 (for approval)	Regulatory Actions The Com-RSC imposed regulatory actions of suspension of registration and issuance of written warnings against a total of 19 companies due to prosecution by relevant departments or violation of the relevant legislations concerning the late payment of wages and MPF contributions, late

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		submission of workers daily attendance records, misconduct or suspected misconduct, as well as convictions in fatal incidents by the respective registered companies.

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.