

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme

Meeting No. 004/22 of the Committee on Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (Com-RSC) for 2022 was held on 22 November 2022 (Tuesday) at 2:00pm 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. 004/22:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
4.1	CIC/RSC/M/003/22 and CIC/RSC/M/005A/22 (for approval)	Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Meeting Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meetings held on 7 September and 26 October 2022 respectively.
4.2	-	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting To be covered under Agenda Item 4.5.
4.3	-	Introduction of HKIC's Diploma in Construction for Specialist Trade Management Members took note of that the Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC) had started organising a series of courses namely Diploma in Construction for Specialist Trade Management which aimed to train up "Trade Supervisors" for strengthening front-line construction management. Members expressed opinions on the course arrangements to the representative of HKIC for follow-up.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
4.4	CIC/RSC/P/050A/22 (for approval)	<p data-bbox="777 323 2083 403">Proposed Addition of “Leveling and Setting Out”, “Horticultural Works”, “Arboricultural Works” and “Skyrise Greenery Works” as designated trade</p> <p data-bbox="777 456 2083 1002">The Hong Kong Leveling Contractors Association submitted a letter on 26 October 2022 for adding “Leveling and Setting Out” as the 15th designated trade under the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme (RSTCS) to the Com-RSC. Members deliberated the guiding principles, procedures and registration arrangements which included the brief scope of designated trade, sub-contract tender limits, registration requirements and transitional arrangements etc. in accordance to the "Rules and Procedures" of the RSTCS. Members also took note of the trade practices and responses made by the representative from the Association. The Com-RSC approved the addition of “Leveling and Setting Out” as designated trade of the RSTCS and corresponding amendments to the Rules and Procedures. The registration for “Leveling and Setting Out” designated trade would be scheduled for implementation on 1 March 2023 with 18 months of transitional period for existing relevant Registered Subcontractors, in which the sub-contract tender limit for Group 1 companies would be imposed on public works contracts from nine months after the implementation date.</p> <p data-bbox="777 1054 2083 1342">Members also deliberated on the letters submitted from the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Federation and the Hong Kong Greening Contractors Association on 16 November 2022 and 1 November 2022 respectively, requesting for upgrading the landscaping works trade on the existing Register of Subcontractors. After discussion with the representatives of the aforementioned trade associations, Members directed the Secretariat to introduce the registration proposal and collect feedbacks from the Development Bureau for Com-RSC’s further consideration.</p>

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
4.5	CIC/RSC/P/051/22 (for approval)	Addition of “Truss Out Scaffolding” and “Gondola”(Permanent and Temporary) as Designated Trades Further to the in-principle-approval on adding “Truss Out Scaffolding”, “Gondola Installation (Permanent)” and “Gondola Installation (Temporary)” as designated trades of the RSTCS in the last meeting, the Com-RSC took note of that the Secretariat had further exchanged views with relevant trade associations on comments raised by Members previously and approved the refined registration requirements for implementation scheduled for Q1 2023.
4.6	CIC/RSC/P/052/22 (for approval)	Enhancements to the RSTCS Members approved the strategic enhancements to the RSTCS. The key points including escalating the registration requirements for the first eight designated trades (such as raising the safety requirements, core team personnel, continuous professional development requirements, participation of Group 2 companies in technology adoption and manpower training, etc.) and expanding coverage of designated trades of the RSTCS to promote professional development of subcontractors.
4.7	CIC/RSC/P/053/22 (for information)	2023 Business Plan and Key Performance Indicators Members took note of the final version of the 2023 business plan and key performance indicators for Com-RSC as revised by the Council.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
4.8	-	<p>Progress Report of the Task Force on proposed Automatic Suspension of Registration on Fatal Accidents (Task Force)</p> <p>After much deliberation, the Com-RSC endorsed the progress report of the meeting of the Task Force of 17 November 2022 made by the Chairperson of the Task Force. The Task Force agreed that regulatory actions on registered companies on fatal incidents at construction sites are necessary. Nevertheless the Task Force concluded that the immediate initiation of regulatory actions currently undertaken against registered companies based on the circumstance of “serious causes” under the current mechanism would be more preferable than the proposed automatic suspension mechanism for avoidance of legal disputes and upholding of procedural justice.</p> <p>Compared with the sanction of suspension of registration for flat one month under the proposed automatic suspension mechanism, the current mechanism was able to impose penalty in accordance to the severity of the incident. The Com-RSC requested the Task Force to follow up on defining "serious causes" and the resources arrangements for Com-RSC's further consideration.</p>
4.9	CIC/RSC/P/054/22 (for approval)	<p>Review the Principles for RSTCS Application Processing</p> <p>Members discussed an application submitted by a main contractor. After considering the nature of its company business, experience of director and contract of track record and etc., members requested the Secretariat to further clarify the relevant information for reconsideration.</p>

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
4.10	CIC/RSC/P/055/22 (for information)	Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme Operation Report <p>(a) As of the end of October 2022, the total number of registered companies was 7,820 (August 2022: 7,774) in which 1,585 (August 2022: 1,101) were Registered Specialist Trade Contractors (RSTCs) and 6,235 (August 2022: 6,673) were Registered Subcontractors (RSs);</p> <p>(b) On 26 September 2022, the Chairperson of Com-RSC issued final reminder to the directors, proprietor and partners of the Group 1 companies of the Plastering designated trade on urging them to submit required documents or otherwise the registration would be cancelled upon the expiry of the transition period on 1 January 2023;</p> <p>(c) On 29 September 2022, the Chairperson of Com-RSC together with the Assistant Director of the Corruption Prevention Department of ICAC co-hosted a press conference promoting the phase two of the implementation of integrity management from 1 January 2023 ; and</p> <p>(d) The Secretariat had organized 39 various activities of induction workshops, topical and technical seminars etc., to introduce the latest requirements and development of the RSTCS and sharing on the latest industry information and experiences on adoption of technologies for the registered companies. A total of around 6,000 representatives from registered companies and industry stakeholders participated in those activities.</p>
4.11	CIC/RSC/P/056/22 (for information)	Updated schedule for 2023 meetings Members took note of the updated meeting dates and time for 2023 meetings.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
4.12	-	Any Other Business Nil.

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.