

By post and by fax at 2845 3489

31 March 2016

Mr CHAN Mo Po, Paul ^{MH JP}
Secretary for Development
Development Bureau
18/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tamar Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHAN

Views on Development Bureau's Consultation on Safety Management System for Public Works Contracts

Thank you for inviting the Institution to put forth our views on the captioned subject.

In response to the subject, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers is pleased to provide herewith our views and suggestions for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



Ir CHAN Chi Chiu
President
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Enc

CCC/WC

Cc: Ir Terence T M LAM, Chief Assistant Secretary (Works), Development Bureau
(by fax)

Enclosure

Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on Development Bureau's Consultation on Safety Management System for Public Works Contracts

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) in general supports the proposed revision of the Safety Management System for Public Works Contracts. We are pleased to provide herewith our further views and suggestions for consideration.

Treatment between minor and major incidents

2. The HKIE agrees to the Government's initiatives to identify feasible ways to optimise the reporting mechanism of incidents. However, the HKIE opines that the operational definition of 'accident' and 'incident' as stated in the Consultation Document should be laid down in clear terms to avoid ambiguity.

3. The HKIE is concerned that the proposed use of a set number of days of period of incapacity as stated in *paragraph 7(b)* of the Consultation Document as the basis in defining "severe" non-fatal incidents may underrepresent the situation. The Government is suggested to refer to other measuring criteria such as "lost time injury frequency rate" or "fatality and weighted injury rate" to reach a more comprehensive definition of "severe" non-fatal incidents.

4. To facilitate future analysis and further improvement of safety management, the Government may consider establishing a centralised database of the relevant details of incidents/ accidents to enable data mining and identification of trends, sources and factors of the incidents/ accidents.

Revisions to Pay for Safety Scheme (Task-tied items)

5. Noting that the Pay for Safety Scheme has been introduced for more than 20 years and contractors are expected to have been accustomed to the safety tasks, the HKIE appreciates the Government's intentions to make revision of the Scheme to enhance its effectiveness.

6. However, the HKIE strongly advocates the Government not to reduce the amount of payment under the Scheme as mentioned in *paragraphs 12 and 13* to avoid giving a false impression of reducing focus and attention on safety to the practitioners and the industry.

7. Instead, the HKIE agrees that some task-tied items in the Bill of Quantities under the Scheme would need review to enhance the functions in improving safety.

8. The HKIE also suggests adding optional items with new elements to encourage contractors to explore and implement creative ways to promote good behaviour and innovations. For examples, the Government may consider applying wider initiatives

to promote use of CCTV surveillance and mobile/ online platform (such as Apps) to enhance safety monitoring, facilitate quick and easy observation/ reporting of safety deficiencies, and enable the management to take prompt follow-up actions.

Revisions to the DEVB TCW No.3/2009

9. The HKIE agrees in general the revisions made to DEVB TCW No.3/2009. However, it is concerned as to whether the *mechanism in determining the level of penalty* (i.e. *paragraphs 20 & 21*) in the Consultation Document can sufficiently assist in identifying the respective responsibility as well as setting appropriate penalty fairly to the main contractors and its sub-contractors involved in the incidents/ accidents.

10. Also, it is observed that the reference criterion of 201 to 700 numbers of workers for 2 safety officers may seem too wide¹ to ensure safety on public works contracts. Hence, the Government is suggested to consider reviewing the requirement of number of safety personnel. For better effectiveness, the HKIE suggests the Government to consider setting a system, similar to the current quality supervision for building works, which links the number of qualified safety personnel (including but not exclusively safety officers) and frequency of inspections with respect to the complexity and size (e.g. in financial term) of projects.

11. Furthermore, the HKIE agrees to the spirits as mentioned in *paragraph 29* that further revision and enhancement measures could be made to the Safety Score Card to streamline the process as well as to build in innovative measures to enhance safety.

12. In the long run, the Government may consider issuing more “best practice” guides on safety management of public works contracts, and promote and encourage wider adoption for good safety practices.

¹ Chapter 7 Site Safety Personnel. Construction Site Safety Manual (191). HK: Development Bureau, April 2008, p.3