

By post and email at eugeneklwong@cedd.gov.hk

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Geotechnical Engineering Office
Civil Engineering and Development Building
101 Princess Margaret Road
Kowloon, Hong Kong

[Attn: Ir Eugene K L WONG, Geotechnical Engineer 3 / Slopes 1]

Dear Ir WONG

Consultation on Amendment to Geoguide 5 – Guide to Slope Maintenance

Regarding the Consultation on Amendment to Geoguide 5 – Guide to Slope Maintenance, the Institution is pleased to provide herewith our views and suggestions.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



Ir E K HON
Chief Executive and Secretary

Enc

CKH/SW

Enclosure

Views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on the Amendment to Geoguide 5 - Guide to Slope Maintenance

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (“HKIE”) supports in general the Amendment to Geoguide 5 – Guide to Slope Maintenance.

2. The HKIE would like to provide the following suggestions and views with respect to the Amendment for the Administration’s consideration:

STABILITY ASSESSMENT IN THE “RECORD OF ENGINEER INSPECTION FOR MAINTENANCE”

3. It is noted that a Registered Professional Engineer (Geotechnical) (RPE(G)) should decide whether the Stability Assessment (SA) for the feature(s) should be carried out or not in the Standard Engineer Inspections (EI) form when conducting Inspection for Maintenance. However, it is suggested to provide a clearer definition for the SA, as far as practicable, by specifying the below circumstances to enhance the safety of the project:

- a. For private features with no previous checking records or approved plans found in the Buildings Department (BD) or for the features were provided by the clients, the SA should not be considered as already carried out and the inspecting RPE(G) should propose the client to carry out the SA ahead.
- b. In case where record of stability analysis for a feature was found but not based on “Site Specific Ground Investigation” and “topographical survey”, the SA should not be considered as already carried out and the RPE(G) should propose the client to carry out the SA ahead.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INSPECTIONS

4. Referring to Section 3.2.4 ‘Recommendations of the Inspections’ on the suitable situation for recommending a SA, the wording in this paragraph implies the SA should only be recommended with reluctance by taking account of the urgency and potential risk of the slope or retaining wall, and the cost-effectiveness of the SA. It is understandable that the cost of EI is lower than that of the SA, but without the SA being conducted, the inspecting RPE(G) may presumably be liable for not making recommendation of conducting the SA if the slope or retaining wall concerned fails afterwards. The HKIE suggests that the wordings of section 3.2.4 should be tuned as to encourage the inspecting RPE(G) to recommend SA for the two scenarios being mentioned in paragraphs 3(a) and (b).

MATTERS RELATED TO ROCK SLOPES

5. Concerning Section 4.5 ‘Rock Slopes’, provision of shotcrete cover as one of the popular rigid surface covers for slope protection may hinder subsequent rock joint

mapping works where considered required in the future. As such, for the preparation of the Maintenance Manual (MM) after slope upgrading works, the HKIE suggests that a detailed rock joint mapping record should be included in the MM if shotcrete cover is to be provided on a rock slope.

NEW MINOR WORKS ITEM UNDER THE BD

6. Regarding Section 3.1.4 ‘Routine Maintenance Works’, as there is a new minor works item – 3.53, “Routine maintenance of slopes, retaining walls or surface drains” under the BD, the inclusion of the concerned new minor works item into Section 3.1.4 is suggested for the most up-to-date information related to slope maintenance.