

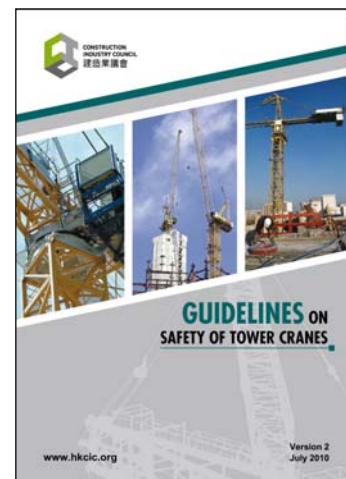
Updates from Construction Industry Council

Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed on 1 February 2007. CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry. Some of its functions provided in Section 5 and 6 of the CIC Ordinance are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, encourage research activities and the use of innovative techniques, promote good practices as well as provide training for the construction industry.

Industry Guidelines

In view of the recent spate of accidents arising from shaft works, the CIC is working on a set of new guidelines to further promote the safety of lift shaft works, we have recently released “Guidelines on Safety of Tower Cranes”, Version 2 and “Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works”, Volume 1.

Tower cranes are widely used for conveying building materials on construction sites. Given that collapse of tower crane could result in serious threats to the safety of site personnel and members of the public, organisations and individuals responsible for safety of tower cranes should take appropriate measures to assure their safety. The measures recommended in the Guidelines for enhancing the safety of tower crane operations include checking before erection of tower cranes; improvements of site supervision; qualification and experience of specialist contractors; and qualification and experience of Competent Persons and workmen. Most of the measures are based on the good practices suggested by the concerned industry stakeholders including tower crane owners, specialist contractors and professionals.



Nowadays, most of the buildings and such construction projects involve lift installation. The construction of lift shafts and the subsequent lift installation processes necessitate the attention of all project stakeholders to ensure site safety. The “Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works” (Volume 1) focus on

the precautionary measures recommended for enhancing the safety of lift shaft works before handing over to the lift installation contractor. This publication promotes safe practices for lift shaft works, with reference to core ingredients of a safe system of work in the principles of risk elimination, hazard reduction, accident prevention and protection of workers. Volume 1 sets out the good practices recommended by CIC for enhancing work safety of site personnel working near or inside a lift shaft during the construction stage and before handing-over to the lift installation contractor. There will be a total of three volumes of the Guidelines covering various stages of the safety of lift shaft works.

It is easy to understand that a project can be completed more effectively and efficiently in a satisfactory manner with the key participants working together, but it is not always easy to put this concept into practice. Hence “Guidelines on Partnering” has been prepared by CIC and released to the industry in August 2010. The main purpose of the Guidelines is to provide comprehensive and practical advice in the adoption of partnering approach in construction contracts.



In order to facilitate stakeholders especially those from the private sector to ensure payment of workers' wages, CIC published “Guidelines on Measures for Protection of Workers' Wages” in mid 2010. The Guidelines provide a series of measures to safeguard construction workers from non-payment of their wages, including settling arrears of wages duty by the main contractor, keeping comprehensive workers records, providing administrative support, as well as enhancing subcontractor management.



The resolution of disputes can be expensive and time-consuming, sometimes causing significant negative impact on a

company. Hence, it is preferable to address all claims and potential claims as early as possible to prevent them from developing into disputes. However, when there are circumstances where disputes are unavoidable they should firstly be handled in a constructive and collaborative way to reach early and effective settlements, while the traditional arbitration and litigation approaches should remain as last resort solutions. If the disagreements cannot be resolved and ultimately turn into disputes, “Guidelines on Dispute Resolution” recently released by CIC advocate the provision of different choices of dispute resolution methods in construction contracts to facilitate the resolution of disputes under different situations. The Guidelines also introduce a new concept of the adoption of an independent expert certifier as one of the dispute resolution methods. A Task Force on Dispute Resolution Mechanisms has recently been established to prepare model dispute resolution clauses for adoption in standard construction contracts.

As part of our commitment to a continual improvement of the safety, quality and competitiveness of the construction industry, more industry guidelines, backed up by sound research, are in the pipeline for release in the near future.

Hong Kong Green Building Council

In collaboration with building professionals and environmental experts, CIC, as the sole financial backer, co-founded the Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) in November 2009 to consolidate the efforts of the industry and the public towards a greener built environment..

Professional Training

Knowing the demand and supply of workforces is critical for setting proper strategies to plan for the future manpower resources of the industry. CIC has been working on a model to forecast the demand and supply of construction workers, technicians and supervisors.

As the major infrastructure projects, building and maintenance works of small and medium scales are being progressively rolled out, there will be a demand for massive manpower in the construction industry. In the meantime, the Hong Kong construction industry is facing the aging workforce problem in some trades. In response, CIC Training Academy, supported by the Development

Bureau, has launched the “Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme” to speed up the training of new entrants for the industry. The Hong Kong Construction Association has led some contractors to jointly sign a Charter to commit to employment of graduates of the Training Scheme with specific salary and allowances. The participating employers will employ the graduates with a monthly remuneration of not less than HK\$8,000 for 6 months and afterwards (upon their satisfactory performance), HK\$10,000 for another 6 months. For the person receives training at CIC Training Academy prior to employment, a maximum monthly training allowance of HK\$5,000 will be given.

Research Programme

CIC encourages research activities and the use of innovative construction technologies to raise the quality and competitiveness of the construction industry. In response to the needs of the industry, CIC is currently conducting the following research:

- Management of heat stress on construction workers in hot and humid weather;
- Adhesion technologies for external wall tiles and rendering;
- Definition and scope of duties of site supervision personnel for the construction industry of Hong Kong;
- Survey on problems of outstanding payments in construction supply chain;
- Manpower research for the construction industry of Hong Kong;
- Review of design and management practices for construction safety; and
- Performance benchmarking of Hong Kong’s construction industry.

These research studies will bring tangible, practical benefits to the industry and the research findings will be disseminated to all relevant parties.

To enhance Research and Development (R&D) in the construction industry, a CIC research funding policy to encourage construction industry related research studies is currently being prepared and will be released shortly.

Conferences and Seminars

In order to communicate the latest construction technology developments and management practices in the construction industry and to share experience in tackling the technical challenges facing the Hong Kong construction industry, CIC hosts various events, including technical seminars, technology forums and conferences. The CIC Inaugural Conference is scheduled to take place on 11 March 2011. A list of the upcoming events are provided in the following:

- Technical Seminar on Lift Shaft, 5 November 2010
- Technical Seminar on Partnering, 3 December 2011
- Construction Technology Forum, 10 December 2010
- Technical Seminar on Tower Crane, January 2011
- Inaugural Conference of Construction Industry Council, 11 March 2011

Further information on CIC's publications and events are available at CIC's website www.hkcic.org.