

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

Qualification for Registration as Registered Professional Housing Manager under the Housing Managers Registration Ordinance

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to set out the current arrangements for the registration of Registered Professional Housing Managers (R.P.H.M.).

Background

2. The Housing Managers Registration Board was established under the Housing Managers Registration Ordinance (“the Ordinance”) (Cap.550) in 2000. It is an independent statutory body tasked to, among other things, set and review the qualification standards for registration as R.P.H.M. The constitution functions and powers of this Board are similar to those of other professions.
3. Under the Ordinance, members of The Hong Kong Institute of Housing are qualified for registration as R.P.H.M. if they also meet other conditions specified in the Ordinance. The Board has, by virtue of the Ordinance, made rules which provide for the registration of applicants who are holders of other qualifications and who have experience in the field of housing management.

These qualification holders, including surveyors, will be eligible if they meet the following requirements:

- (a) at least three years of professional experience in housing management, of which not less than one year’s local experience should immediately precede the application for registration; and
- (b) submission of three papers: one on housing management and two on topics concerning legal, financial or social aspects in relation to housing management.

Current Position

4. The professional education and training required for membership of The Hong Kong Institute of Housing focus on housing management. The requirements for membership of The Hong Kong Institute of Housing are:
 - (a) a holder of Diploma in Housing Management of the School of Professional and Continuing Education of the University of Hong Kong, and employment in a housing body for not less than 5 years: or
 - (b) a degree holder with honors of Bachelor of Arts in Housing Studies offered by the Department of Public and Social Administration of the City University of Hong Kong, and employment in a housing body for not less than 5 years; or
 - (c) a degree holder of Master of Housing Management (Professional Stream) of the University of Hong Kong, and employment in a housing body for not less than 5 years.

In the case of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, its members specialize in four disciplines. The training for one of them is only partly related to housing management. Therefore, like persons who are not members of The Hong Kong Institute of Housing, members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors applying for registration as R.P.H.M. would have to satisfy the Housing Managers Registration Board that they have fulfilled the requirements set out in paragraphs 3 (a) and (b) above, and that they possess relevant professional training and experience of a standard not less than that required of a member of The Hong Kong Institute of Housing.

Conclusion

5. The Housing Managers Registration Board is of the view that the current arrangements for assessing the application for registration from holders of other qualifications work satisfactorily. It is considered that such arrangements are reasonable and fair to holders of other qualifications who are practicing in the housing management field.