

LC Paper No. CB(2)977/02-03(01)

A Position paper about the proposed scheme of Registration on Construction Workers

20 Jan 2003

The Objectives of this paper:

1. To describe the positions of FEMC on the proposed period of working experience of workers leading to exemptions of trade tests for the proposed Registration on Construction Workers
2. To present evidences supporting the positions of FEMC as stated in objective 1

The Positions of FEMC:

1. The FEMC supports the proposed scheme of Registration on Construction Workers
2. The FEMC supports that a worker with 6 years working experience could temporarily register as RCW within a 3 years grace period, but the worker would need to pass a trade test within the grace period. Only those workers with 10 years experience could exempt the trade test, but they still need to pass an interview (hereinafter called 6 years/10 years proposal)
3. As direct employers of construction workers, the members of FEMC believe that the current 6 years/10 years proposal would help them to control service and product quality of building works.

The Evidences supporting the FEMC positions:

1. The 6 years/10 years proposal was discussed at the 16th meeting for Registration of Construction Workers (RCW) held on 12th Oct 2001 at HKCA's office, FEMC discussed this matter again with E&M workers' unions on 10 July 2002 (see attached minutes of meeting)
2. A report dated July 2001 on the results of a survey (10,000 sets questionnaire were sent out to construction workers) carried out by CITA revealed that 30.8% of the samples had over 10 years of working experience (see question no.6).
3. 60.2% of the samples agreed that a worker having 6 years working experience could temporarily register as RCW would be an appropriate.

Prepared by:

The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited (FEMC)

Meeting Minutes

Subject: Unification of Job Titles for Workers of Air-conditioning and ventilation
 Date: 10 July 2002
 Time: 11:30am to 1:00pm
 Venue: 香港機電專業學校 at Wan Chai
 Present

Name	Association	Title
Peter Lam	FEMC	Vice President
Victor Law	ACRA	Immediate Past President
Edward Tsang	VTC	Industrial Training Officer
Chu Yuk Ching	機電聯會	常委
張佑強 (W K Cheung)	空調工會	福利部
沈啟明 (K M Sin)	機電聯會	秘書長
黎志華 (C W Lai)	機電聯會	副主席

Distribution: All present + RTW members + 章松根 香港註冊通風系統承建商協會
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The meeting minutes of 25th June 2002 was confirmed with the amendment as follows:

To add - "Chu Yuk-ching stated that E317 should be reminded"

1. Chu Yuk-ching pointed out that E317 - Sign Installers should be reminded. Edward Tsang of VTC stated that the course EL312 currently provided by VTC would cover the scope of E317, which would not need to set up trade test as EMSD would recognize the qualification of clause EL312.
2. The definition of 'Construction Site' was discussed. CW Lai of 機電聯會 informed the meeting that the definition of 'Construction Site' as stated in the new Factories and Industrial Undertaking Regulation would cover the maintenance work carried out by the contractors. All agreed that the definition of construction site would affect the future coverage of the job titles, and therefore, further clarification from Works Bureau (WB) regarding the definition of construction site would be required. *(Post meeting notes: P Lam clarified the definition "Construction Site" with SY Lam of WB after the meeting in the afternoon, according to WB, these job titles would be used for updating the "Unified Job Titles and Descriptions of Tradesman and Semi-skilled /General Worker for the Construction Industry" published by WB, and this booklet would be used by the whole Construction Industry including repair and maintenance work. However, this booklet would also be used for Registered Construction*

Worker [RCW] in future, if it is the case, the definition of "Construction Site" might be changed to exclude the maintenance work and repair)

3. Edward Tsang pointed out that if the scope of work of a proposed job title of tradesman was too narrow, it might not be justified to categorize as a tradesman.
4. 空調工會 expressed their worry about the scope of work of a job title, they worried that if a job title's coverage is too large, they are afraid that workers couldn't pass the relevant trade test in future.
5. P Lam explained that the bottom line of the RCW had been set as "wouldn't break any rice bowl of any existing workers with the objective of upgrading the quality" Therefore those existing skill workers with sufficient experience, which had been set as 6 years experience in the relevant trade, should pass the gate without the need of going through a trade test, for future registration. However, there was no past records available at the meeting for reference, P Lam stated that he was NOT quite sure about whether the "sufficient experience" was set as "6 years" or "10 years" (*Post meeting notes: according to the minutes of 16th meeting for Registration of Construction Workers (RCW) held on 12th Oct 2001 at HKCA's office, see attached copy Appendix1, Workers with 6 years experience working could be temporally registered as RCW within a 3 years grace period, but they would need to pass a trade test within the grace period. Only those workers with 10 years experience could exempt the trade test, but they still need to pass an interview*)
6. Based on the understanding that workers with 6 years experience could be registered as RCW without the need of passing a trade test, the workers' unions agreed that the job titles of Refrigeration/Air-conditioning/Ventilation (RACV) could be reduced from 8 sub-categories to 5 sub-categories:

Was	Is	Remarks
RACV Mechanic (Electrical Control), Code no. E314a	RACV Mechanic (Electrical Control), Code no. E314a	Remains
A/C Mechanic (Window type), No code no.	RACV Mechanic (Unitary System), Code no. E314b	Integrated the three different types of A/C systems into E314b
A/C Mechanic (Split Type, single phase), No code no.		
A/C Mechanic (Split Type, other than single phase), No code no.		
Plumber and Pipe fitters and A/C plumber, Code E313	RACV Mechanic (Water and Refrigerant System), Code no. E314c	The plumber and A/C plumber (or called A/C pipe fitter) shall be separated from each other. It is required to create a new code in E&M for Plumber of Plumbing and drainage

		trade, and a new code E314c for A/C plumber (now is called RACV Mechanic (Water and Refrigerant System))
RACV Mechanic (Central System), Code no. E314c	RACV Mechanic (Air System), Code no. E314d	Integrated the two different types of RACV and the sheet metal work systems into E314d
Sheet Metal Worker, Code no. E315		
Thermal Insulation Craftsman, Code no. E318	Thermal Insulation Craftsman, Code no. E318	Remains

Recorded by Peter Lam

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