

**Legislative Council Panel on Development**  
**Paper No. CB(1)864/19-20(01)**  
**Progress Report on Proposed Registration Scheme for**  
**Tree Management Personnel**

Regarding the following questions about the captioned paper from Hon. Tony Tse to the Chairman of the Panel on Development dated 29 October 2020:

- What are the assessment criteria on competency and performance for the five types of tree management personnel under the voluntary registration scheme as mentioned in the paper?
- Is the registration scheme only for government-related personnel, or relevant personnel in private organisations; and the Government has no plan to require organisations and companies that provide relevant services to be registered?
- The Government proposes to set up the performance monitoring mechanism to ensure that relevant personnel would abide by the code of conduct. What is the mechanism and how to implement?
- If tree problems arise under one's purview during the voluntary registration period, who should be responsible?
- Are there any criteria for termination of registration and appeal mechanism under the registration scheme? If yes, what are the details?
- The paper stated that a mandatory registration scheme would be implemented in the long term. When will it be implemented and what are the key factors considered?

**The response from the Administration is as follows:**

**Targets of the Registration Scheme for Tree Management Personnel**

2. The Development Bureau has launched the Registration Scheme for Tree Management Personnel ("Registration Scheme") on 1 December 2020. The Registration Scheme encourages all qualified in-service practitioners, including arborists, tree risk assessors, tree work supervisors, tree climbers and chainsaw operators, to register. It is not applicable to registration by individual companies. To minimise possible impact on the in-service practitioners and the industry, we first rolled out the Registration Scheme on a voluntary basis.

## **Competency Requirements of Registered Personnel**

3. We set the registration requirements for tree management personnel as the qualifications and work experience currently and generally required for in-service practitioners engaged under government contracts, with no additional assessment. Nevertheless, we require registered tree management personnel to undertake continuing education in arboriculture (“CEA”) to uplift their core competency so as to align with their expected competency based on the Specification of Competency Standards<sup>1</sup> (“SCS”), as well as to keep them abreast of the latest techniques and development in the industry. The requirements include minimum CEA hours on a set of specified core competency areas for each of the five types of tree management personnel, which are formulated based on the SCS. We are inviting interested local institutions and professional organisations to develop CEA courses. We will also monitor the development of the industry and the required competency of the manpower, and adjust the content of CEA courses accordingly in due course.

4. To complement the Registration Scheme in standardising the professional standard of the industry, we have commissioned the Vocational Training Council to conduct studies to develop local professional assessments and trade tests for various registered tree management personnel. The studies commenced in November 2020 for completion in 2022. From then on, in-service practitioners who wish to apply for the first-time registration or for re-registration due to unsuccessful renewal of the last registration will be required to undertake and pass the professional assessments and/or trade tests as appropriate. The professional assessments and trade tests will also serve as the recognised professional qualifications in the industry.

## **Code of Conduct and Performance Monitoring**

5. Registered tree management personnel are expected to deliver arboriculture services up to the required standards, thereby ensuring healthy tree growth and protecting public safety. We have developed a set of code of conduct for registered tree management personnel to provide guidance on proper

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<sup>1</sup> In December 2019, a set of Specification of Competency Standards for the arboriculture and horticulture industry was promulgated. The specification sets out the skills, knowledge and competency standards required for the practitioners to perform various job functions effectively.

practices of the industry and professionalism of the tree management personnel, making reference to the practices of other relevant local and overseas professional organisations. We will monitor and regulate the performance of registered tree management personnel through receiving complaints, conducting investigation and/or inquiry, as well as taking appropriate disciplinary actions against non-performers, such as issue of warning letter, reprimand, suspension or termination of registration, etc.

6. The Development Bureau is setting up a Disciplinary Panel and an Appeal Board under the Registration Scheme to handle disciplinary related complaint cases. Any registered tree management personnel or complainant who does not accept the decision made by the Disciplinary Panel may submit appeal request to the Appeal Board. The members of the Disciplinary Panel and Appeal Board are from industry stakeholders.

7. We will monitor the performance of the Registration Scheme and conduct review on a need basis to adjust the implementation arrangements in the best interest of both the industry and the public. Detailed information on the Registration Scheme can also be viewed at its website: <https://www.greening.gov.hk/rstmp/en/home/index.html>.

**Development Bureau**  
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