

Schemes & Measures implemented By ArchSD in respect of Building Quality Assurance

Implementation of ISO 9001

ArchSD has been certified under the ISO 9001 quality assurance system since April 1995. The procedures for building quality assurance such as the establishment & responsibilities of the supervision team, inspection of works, test records, control of defects & substandard items, rectification work by contractors etc. has been stipulated in the manuals and regular audits (2 external & 2 internal per year) are performed to ensure conformity to the requirements. The system is reviewed annually and provides a strong framework for site supervision.

Site Supervision Provision

Construction of ArchSD's projects is closely supervised by the project team. Apart from the routine day-to-day inspections which are undertaken by our site supervisory staff, the project architect and engineer visits the site frequently to ensure that the required standard of quality and safety is met for every critical element of construction.

For example, the work supervisor makes the routine check on formwork erection and fixing of reinforcement, the project engineer does the counter-checking and be satisfied himself with the final inspection before concreting is allowed. In addition, regular monitoring & site visits will be made by the senior or chief professionals for the overall control of works.

When compared to the private sector, we wish to note that the supervisory standards for ArchSD's projects are over and above the requirements specified in the "Supervision Pan" introduced by the Buildings Department.

ICAC has recently done an Assignment Report on Piling Work which highlights some of the malpractices in the industry and recommends various ways to tighten supervision. We have considered these recommendations carefully and for enhancement

of the present system, we will review our checklist in the piling supervision procedure, provide further training to our supervisory staff, increase the frequency of sampling for coring tests, perform more non-destructive testing and provide independent verification to tests undertaken by private firms.

WBTC “Auditing for Prevention of Sub-standard Works in Public Works Construction”

ArchSD is in the process of integrating WB’s requirement into the existing auditing structure of the Department.

Exemption from Compliance with the Buildings Ordinance

Projects undertaken by ArchSD are in compliance to the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance although they are not required to go through the administrative processes. As a matter of fact, some of the requirements stipulated in our specifications, eg, durability of concrete, are of a higher standard than the statutory requirements.

Architectural Services Department
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