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中華電力

CLP Power

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Winnie Cheng)

人力資源部－輸電及供電
香港九龍深水埗福華街二一五號六樓
Human Resources Department
- Power Systems
6/F Shamshui Po Centre, 215 Fuk Wa Street
Kowloon, Hong Kong

電話 Tel (852) 2678 6709
傳真 Fax (852) 2678 6577
網址 Website www.clpgroup.com

Our Ref L/28120/03-06

Dear Miss Cheng,

Construction Workers Registration Bill

CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP Power) supports a mandatory registration system for construction workers to recognize their skill level as well as to ensure the quality of construction works.

However, we are very concerned about the qualification requirements for Cable Jointer (Power) and Overhead Linesman specified in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the bill, which stipulated that completion of apprenticeship is the only avenue for them to obtain the "Registered Skilled Worker" status. To be practical and consistent with other trades, we suggest that other qualifications, such as trade-test certificate should be allowed as alternative requirement.

Apprenticeship training has always been an important source of supply for CLP Power's competent workers. While we have an ongoing program for developing apprentices, due to staff turnover and workload changes, from time to time we also need to recruit seasoned workers to go through in-house training to become competent Cable jointers or Linesmen. The skill development is provided at our well-equipped training school under a comprehensive training and qualification program. Excluding this group of tradesmen from registration will deprive the community of a team of qualified and capable resources, and, as a consequence, definitely affect the provision of a reliable electricity supply in Hong Kong. At present, a significant proportion of our Cable Jointers and Linesmen do not possess the apprenticeship qualification, yet are very proficient in their trades. This percentage is even higher among the tradesmen employed by our contractors serving in the industry.

Being a major power utility in Hong Kong that regards cable jointing and overhead lines as core skills, and has a well-established training school to develop qualified tradesmen, we suggest the Authority to consider approving the training and assessment program of CLP Power as an approved trade test.

In addition to the above, we would also like to submit the following comments for your consideration :

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- The definitions of "Construction Work" & "Construction Site" under this Bill are ambiguous and seems to be different from those in other Ordinance, e.g. F&IU Ordinance, Industrial Training (Construction Industry) Ordinance, etc. It is suggested to adopt a clearer definition to avoid misunderstanding.
- According to the 'Background Brief on Construction Workers Registration Bill' provided to the Bills Committee <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/bc/bc06/papers/bc060602cb1-1811-e.pdf>, the years of experience required for a registered skilled worker is 'Not less than four years in the respective trade'. This should serve as a guideline rather than a rule, as the experience under different trades/environments may vary greatly. The possession of the required certificate/qualification should be a sufficient proof of their competence. If the years of experience requirement is imposed, I suggest that the time under any approved training /apprenticeship should be taken into account.
- Under the bill, the basic qualification of a number of trades requires the holding of another license, say driving license, being a Registered Electrical Worker, Competent Escalator Workman, etc. For these categories, a further registration seems unnecessary. Moreover, it will cause financial hardship to the workers concerned and increase in administrative effort to keep track of their qualification. We would suggest the Administration to critically streamline the process and eliminate duplicated registration requirement.
- From time to time there are requirements for overseas contractors to work on our projects, either because they are responsible for the supply and installation of the equipment, or because we need their specialised skills. These overseas contractors should be exempted from registration as they will be working on specific equipment only and should have met our requirements before they are accepted.
- There are a number of trades under Schedule 1, Part 1 that do not have the registration for Semi-Skilled workers. While we are not in the position to comment other trades, our Company does need semi-skilled workers for Cable Jointers, Linesmen, Electrical Fitters, etc.. The status will also be useful for trainees during the latter part of their training when they are expected to work independently on comparatively simple jobs.
- The bill advocates for the register to be open for inspection by public. It seems that there may be privacy issues involved if the information on reprimand is included in the register.

Your favourable consideration to our suggestions is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



H.S. Chan

Human Resources Manager – Power Systems