

A Position paper about the views of the Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited (FEMC) on the Construction Workers Registration Bill

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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 above

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 temporally 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 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
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 of the questionnaire).
3. 60.2% of the samples agreed that a worker having 6 years working experience could temporally register as RCW would be an appropriate.

Prepared by:

Peter LAM, Chairman of Registration of Trade Workers Committee,

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