

## Legislative Council Panel on Housing

### Implementation of Product Certification of Construction Materials in the Hong Kong Housing Authority's Projects

#### Purpose

This paper aims to brief members on the progressive implementation of product certification by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) in its construction contracts from 2010 onwards.

#### Background

2. The HA is committed to produce an average of about 15 000 flats annually. In doing so, the HA procures a considerable amount of construction services and products. We strive to drive quality assurance throughout the entire supply chain. Instead of solely relying on the test certificates provided by the suppliers and/or surveillance checks by the HA's agents upon material delivery to sites, we consider that a third party audit in form of product certification at the factory production line offers a better guarantee for the quality, safety and reliability of the products we use.

3. Product Certification is a process whereby a product is certified to have achieved prescribed standards and quality requirements, through regular factory surveillance and periodic factory random sampling and testing of products by independent Certification Bodies accredited under the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS). Its function in the quality assurance regime is shown in **Annex 1**. A product certification mark will enhance the reliability of the product quality as well as the manufacturer's capability, and protect the interest of consumers and procuring entities for the benefit of society as a whole. Therefore, product certification will provide us with an added confidence and assurance on product quality through upstream control of the supply chain.

4. Featuring "Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong", testing and certification services is one of the six new pillar industries propelling Hong Kong towards a knowledge-based economy. In support of this policy, we have been developing and specifying in our construction projects requirements for product certification for certain construction materials, in addition to the Quality Scheme for the Production and Supply of Concrete (QSPSC)<sup>1</sup> in use since 1991.

---

<sup>1</sup> QSPSC was developed in 1991 by the HA and the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency for ready mix concrete produced off-site in view of the great importance of the quality of the material we attach to the safety and durability of our housing stock. QSPSC has subsequently become a policy requirement by the Development Bureau and a regulatory requirement by the Buildings Department for all construction projects in Hong Kong.

## Progress

5. The HA is scheduled to implement product certification requirements for seven major building materials in its construction projects due for tender progressively as follows –

Stage	Addition of building materials that required product certification
Stage 1 since 1 May 2010	- Fire Rated Timber Doors - Panel Wall Partitions
Stage 2 since 1 August 2010	- Cement Products (for architectural use) - Tile Adhesives
Stage 3 since 1 December 2010	- Repair Mortars - Ceramic Tiles
Stage 4 by mid-2011	- Aluminium Windows, and 4-Bar Hinges Assembly

6. The product certification processes are illustrated diagrammatically in **Annex 2**. In essence, we need to develop a Product Conformity Certification Scheme (PCCS) for each type of product, which is drafted by professional institute collaborating with government departments, academics, consultants, suppliers, etc; Based on the PCCS as an objective standard, Certification Bodies (CBs) accredited by HKAS will then carry out certification audit and at the same time select product samples from the factory to the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme accredited laboratories for testing. Upon passing the certification audit and sample testing, CB will issue the product certificate.

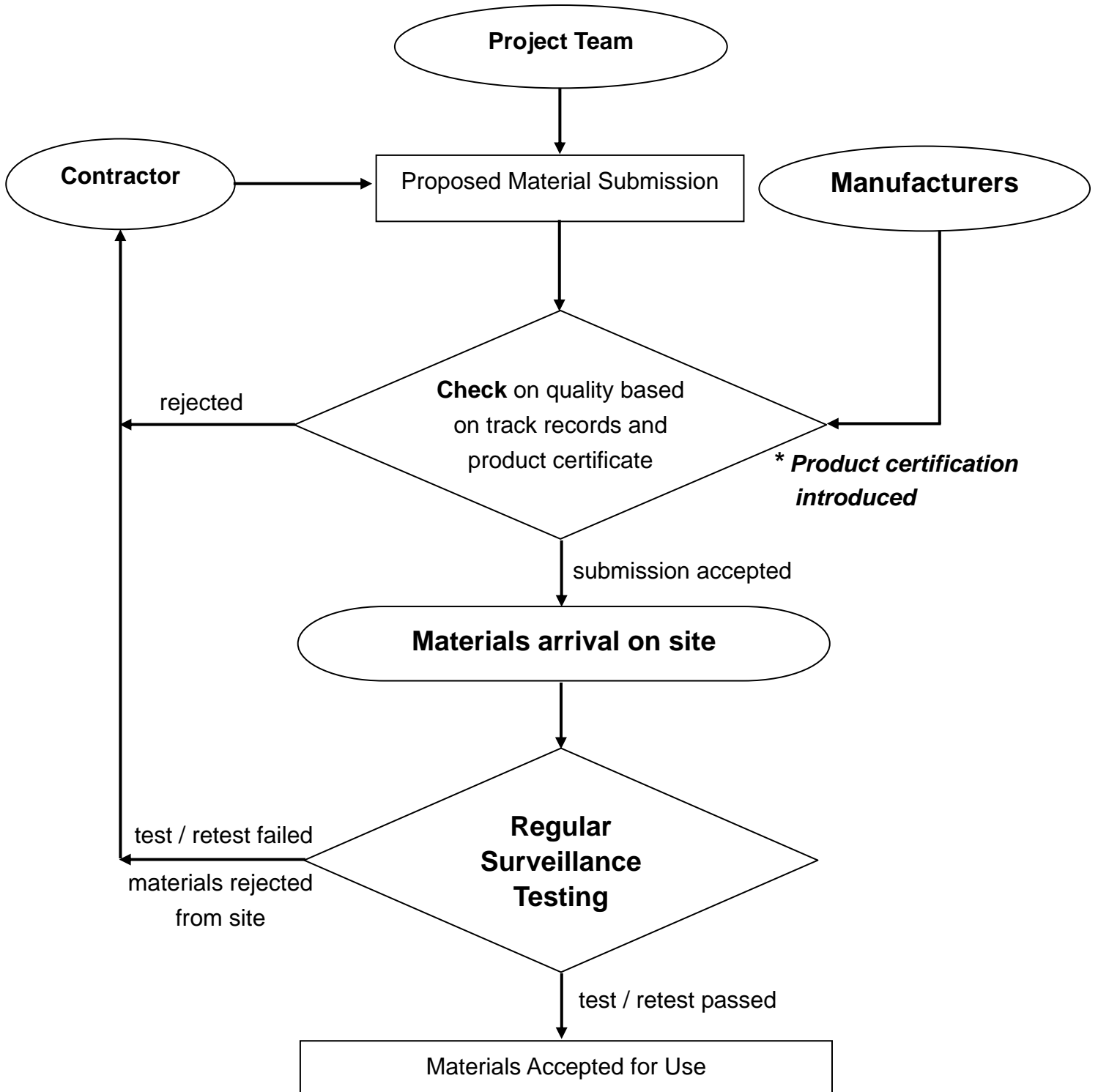
## Way Forward

7. The major stakeholders in the industry share the same quality aspirations with us and are in support of the implementation of product certification for major construction materials. We will continue to collaborate with them to extend the product certification requirement to more major construction materials for greater assurance of product quality.

8. Members are invited to note the implementation of product certification for construction materials in the HA's projects.

**Transport and Housing Bureau  
February 2011**

HA's Surveillance Check of Building Materials on Site



**Product Certification Processes**

