

**Bills Committee on Construction Industry Legislation
(Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2012**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 13 April 2012**

Views and concerns expressed by members at the above Bills Committee meeting and follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration are as follows:

Extension of the validity period for provisional registration

1. Under section 45 of the Construction Work Registration Ordinance ("CWRO"), the registration of a person as a skilled worker (provisional) or semi-skilled worker (provisional) for a designated trade would expire on the third anniversary of the date of registration. A registered skilled or semi-skilled worker (provisional) is required to complete an appropriate specified training course or pass a relevant trade test before he or she is eligible for registration as a skilled worker for the designated trade. As some senior workers with provisional registration might not want to attend trade tests as they were retiring in a few years' time, members enquired if consideration could be given to extending the validity period of provisional registration so that such workers would not be forced out of work. The Administration is requested to respond to the proposal.

2. Members noted that the Administration intended to introduce further legislative amendments into Legislative Council in 2013 to implement Phase Two Prohibition under CWRO, which would prohibit workers from undertaking construction works except for those trades they were registered for. As construction works often involved works of different trades, members were concerned if construction workers would be required to have been registered as skilled workers for many trades before they were allowed to undertake any construction works. The Administration advised that it was considering proposals under which minor works of value below certain amount would be exempted from the prohibition. The Administration is requested to set out details of such proposals.

Consolidation of construction-related cards

3. Noting that the Administration had plans to consolidate all construction-related cards/certificates issued by the authorities so that construction workers in the long term would be required to carry only a single card, members enquired about the detailed designs of the card. Given that the strenuous nature of construction works which were often carried out outdoor, members were concerned about the durability of the registration card. Members enquired if electronic card-readers would be made readily available at construction sites so that sub-contractors could easily verify the registration status of construction workers they intended to hire. Members also opined that the trades for which a worker was registered should be shown on the registration card. The Administration is requested to provide details of the design of the registration card and relevant logistical arrangements.

Job security for staff of the Construction Workers Registration Authority

4. Members noted that the Bill provided for the continuation of the employment contracts for the staff of Construction Workers Registration Authority ("CWRA") upon the amalgamation of CWRA and the Construction Industry Council ("CIC"). Yet, some staff members of CWRA were still concerned about the long-term job security as some of their job duties overlapped with those of their counterparts in CIC. These staff members had written to the CIC management to express concern but so far received no response. Members called upon the Administration to conduct a briefing for the staff of CWRA and listen to their concern directly. The Administration is requested to report on the outcome of consultation with CWRA staff.

5. On the job security of CWRA staff, the Administration advised that both CIC and CWRA had agreed at their own meetings that staff members of CWRA would be offered a further employment contract of at least two years upon the expiry of the contract in existence on the day of amalgamation. As requested by members, the Administration agreed to provide copies of the minutes of the relevant meetings of CIC and CWRA.