



THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF
SURVEYORS

香港測量師學會

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By Fax (2880 5128) & Post

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Legislative Councillor
Room 802, Legislative Council Complex
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Hong Kong

Dear Tony,

Bills Committee on Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2015

We would like to submit our supplementary comments on the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2015 following the Bills Committee meeting held on 29 February 2016 for your consideration.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

Sr Daniel Chang
Chairman, Building Surveying Division
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The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) Building Surveying Division (BSD)

Supplementary comments on the Proposed Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme after the Bills Committee meeting held on 29 February 2016

- (1) The HKIS BSD have reservation on the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2015 unless the proposed amendments are in a logical way, in fairness to all stakeholders and a better-off approach to the society at large.
- (2) The building control mechanism of Hong Kong is well developed and have reached the international standards. The Authorized Person (AP) undertakes the role and successfully implements his/her role to ensure building (including new development, Alteration & Addition (A&A) works, and licensed premises) and associated works are rendered safe in Hong Kong. We trust that the control mechanism should be maintained.
- (3) The HKIS BSD expresses its support to the devolving of fire safety risk assessment, compliance inspection and certification to the market in principle, and suggests a comprehensive review to be carried out after a pilot scheme of 2 years.
- (4) The HKIS BSD raises strong objection to the RFE registration qualification, which only accepts Registered Professional Engineer (RPE) of relevant disciplines under the Engineers Registration Ordinance Cap. 409 or as considered appropriate by the Director of Fire Services. The focus is shifting to one of the professions and disregards the rest.

It is suggested that a person who is competent to provide the subject services should be accepted in the registration mechanism. He/she could be a RPE of relevant disciplines registered under Cap. 409, or Registered Professional Surveyor (RPS) of relevant disciplines e.g. Building Surveying under Surveyors Registration Ordinance Cap. 417, or Authorized Person registered under Buildings Ordinance Cap. 123.

- (5) We strongly suggest replacing the title "Registered Fire Engineer" with another one which is more appropriate/ neutral, such as "Registered Fire Safety Certifier" or "Registered Fire Safety Consultant". This better describes the person's competence and nature of works involved.



- (6) The Registration Committee for assessing the competence of applicants should be well represented by different stakeholders in the industry, and should include representatives of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Architects and other bodies as appropriate.
- (7) To-date, the HKIS have more than 9,000 members specializing in various disciplines. Around 1,200 Corporate Members and 900 non-Corporate Members are practicing in the field of Building Surveying; and more than 200 Building Surveyors are registered as an AP (Surveyor).

Building Surveyor is one of the professionals and is one of the major players to provide fire safety services to the society. They are heavily involved in the fire safety design of a building both in new development, A&A works and various kinds of licensed premises. Fire services installation requirements as required in the building plans submission or licence application will be formulated. Building Surveyor is also widely engaged to serve building owners in handling Fire Safety Directions and Fire Safety Improvement Directions under Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572), in which they design, inspect and supervise the required fire safety improvement works for compliance of legislative requirements. Needless to say, the AP will take up the ultimate responsibility for the fire safety issues under the current statutory framework.

- (8) To conclude, we believe that an open system which engages competent professionals to perform the prescribed fire risk assessment and fire installation certification tasks will induce positive economic impacts to the licensee. We trust the members of the Bills Committee will seriously consider our views in determining the contents of the revised ordinance.

Prepared by Building Surveying Division
The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
1 April 2016