



LC Paper No. CB(2)643/16-17(07)

Legislative Council Secretariat

12 January 2017

Chairman of the Bills Committee on Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2016  
11 Legislative Council Road  
Central Hong Kong

Attn. Dr. Hon Lo Wai-kwok c/o Ms. Janet Shum

By email : bc\_52\_16@legco.gov.hk; fax no.: 2185 7845).

Dear Sir,

Proposed Registered Fire Engineer Scheme, CB(2)1542/15-16(02)

Thank you for your letter dated 26 December 2016 inviting our Institution to submit our views on the captioned proposed Amendment Bills. Our Institution in principal support the introduction of Registered Fire Engineer ("RFE") Scheme to leverage qualify professionals in the market for the provision of fire safety risk assessment and certification services in order to improve the process and efficiency of license application and approval. However, we would like to reiterate our views which were submitted previously and wish the Administration could commit and consider them in the fore coming legislation works:-

1. The proposed 3 types of personal who can apply for registration of RFE have not truly reflected and included the current practitioners like qualified building surveyors available in the market. Building Surveyors provide professional consultancy service to our clients who wish to build and convert new or existing buildings for the use of licensed premises. The services in practice include feasibility, design, submission, supervision and inspection upon completion of both building and fire safety elements and installations according to the relevant ordinances, regulations and code of practices in order to meet FSD's requirements. Hence, the inclusion of Building Surveyors as one of the eligible applicants for RFE with the same requirement as registered professional engineer shall be favorably considered by the Security Bureau. The exclusion of Building Surveyors in the proposed PFE would certainly affect the current market ecosystem and the existing building surveying practitioners would be eliminated by the new regulation. Should the building surveyors are also eligible to apply for registration as RFE, the general public would enjoy a more competitive fees and quality of services.

2. The registration requirements for Registered Professional Engineer (RPE) as RFE appears that they are the only recognized professional who can perform the duty of RFE. However, their roles and function in the current licensing mechanism have not been demonstrated. Instead, the Authorized Person (AP) has taken an active and leading role under the current system. APs also involve in the very beginning of the licence application till the granting of licence by the FSD. Therefore, AP who possesses relevant working experience shall be automatically qualified as RFE without any additional requirements.

3. The details e.g. duration and mode of study e.g short course, diploma or degree of the proposed bridging course for relevant degree holders and experienced practitioners shall be clarified. We consider that top-up course with not more than 20 hours should be appropriate. The availability of the bridging course would also affect the effective implementation of the regulation. Also degree in Building surveying or Degree in Surveying shall also be recognized as nowadays most of the universities in Hong Kong offer 'Surveying' degree only. Some of our members who hold a general degree with related subjects, are now practitioners and should also be considered as equivalent qualifications.

4. The compositions of Registration Committee and Interview board including examination assessors are recommended to include representative from our Institution as we are one of the key practitioners in the licence application.

We sincerely hope that our views shall be seriously considered by your Committee in order to safeguard the interests of general public, business operators and practitioners.

Yours faithfully,



Clement Lau  
Chairman of Hong Kong Board  
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

c.c. Fire Service Department, Fire Safety Command, 7th Floor, North Wing,  
Fire Services Headquarters Buildings, 1, Hong Chong Road, Tsim ShaTsui East,  
Kowloon. (Fax no. 2312 0376)

c.c. Hon Edward Yiu, Legislative Councillor