

Professional Interview conducted under  
Buildings Ordinance section 3(5)

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In the course of the professional career of an authorized person (AP) or registered structural engineer (RSE), he may be faced with the necessity to train staff including pupils who have been articulated to his office with a view to qualifying for registration as APs or RSEs under the Buildings Ordinance. The 'Notes for the Guidance of Applicants' which pronounces upon the professional interview conducted by the Authorized Persons' and Structural Engineers' Registration Committee are attached at Appendix A for your information. These Notes should be read in conjunction with Buildings Ordinance section 3 and Building (Administration) Regulations 3 and 4.



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Building Authority

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Authorized Persons' and Structural Engineers' Registration CommitteeNotes for the Guidance of ApplicantsProfessional Interviews conducted under Buildings Ordinance section 3(5)

1. One of the statutory functions of the Authorized Persons' & Structural Engineers' Registration Committee is to conduct professional interviews and make recommendations in order to assist the Building Authority in considering applications for inclusion in the APs' register or the RSEs' register. The Registration Committee is required to examine an applicant to ensure that he has such practical experience relevant to his application as may be appropriate and acceptable for the purpose of the Buildings Ordinance.
  2. In addition to the required practical experience, it is also necessary for an applicant to satisfy the Registration Committee of his suitability for inclusion in the particular register for which he applies and, in this context, an applicant will have to demonstrate that his practical experience and his general knowledge in his profession is adequate to meet local requirements and to enable him to discharge his duties in Hong Kong. He will also be expected to have acquired a working knowledge of the Buildings Ordinance and allied matters - the main criterion being a thorough understanding of general principles and fundamental requirements. The principal subjects upon which the Registration Committee is likely to test the applicants' knowledge will include:
    - (a) The statutory role, functions and duties of an AP or RSE as the case may be and of the Building Authority in respect of private building development in Hong Kong.
    - (b) The objectives of the Buildings Ordinance and Regulations and the mechanism of control.
    - (c) A general awareness of local conditions which must be sufficient to enable him to practise in Hong Kong efficiently and effectively without having to make frequent enquiries on matters of common local knowledge.
    - (d) In the case of applications for inclusion in the APs' register, a working knowledge of the Buildings Ordinance and Regulations, relevant codes of practice, and such allied matters as the Town Planning Ordinance and outline zoning plans, lease conditions and the usual requirements of other authorities with whom an AP in Hong Kong is likely to be involved.

In the case of applications for inclusion in the RSEs' register, a working knowledge of the Buildings Ordinance, and in particular those Regulations and recognized codes pertinent to the design and supervision of structural works.
    - (e) The procedures that an AP or RSE must follow in order to meet local statutory requirements.
    - (f) Practice notes, circular letters and other advisory information.
  3. All applicants must prove that they possess the required qualifications and that they are normally resident in Hong Kong.
  4. A list of the current versions of the Buildings Ordinance and subsidiary Regulations available from the Government Publications Centre and a general summary of other legislation affecting the building industry can be found in PNAP:115.
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