

## **Part I – Notes**

### **Registered Geotechnical Engineer (RGE)**

1. The Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2004 (B(A)O) establishes a register of geotechnical engineers and introduces the requirement for the appointment of an RGE for the geotechnical elements of building works. The RGE so appointed will undertake the investigation, design and supervision of geotechnical works and will be statutorily responsible for such works.
2. The registration of RGE comes into operation on 31 December 2004, and the requirement for appointment of RGE for the geotechnical elements of building works or street works shall come into operation one year later, i.e. on 31 December 2005.

### **Contractors Registration**

3. The amendments to the Buildings Ordinance (BO) in relation to contractors registration consist mainly of the following aspects:
  - (a) New compositions of the Contractors Registration Committees;
  - (b) Deletion of the option of 1 year registration period for registered general building contractors and registered specialist contractors; and
  - (c) Deletion of the requirement of endorsement, in the specified form, of an authorized person, a registered structural engineer or The Hong Kong Construction Association Ltd. upon application for inclusion in the contractor registers.

### **Registration Period of Authorized Persons(AP)/Registered Structural Engineers(RSE)**

4. The registration period of AP and RSE is extended from 1 year to 5 years under the B(A)O. Upon commencement of the B(A)O on 31 December 2004, all applications for retention of names in the AP/RSE register will be for a period of 5 years.
5. The application fee for retention of a name in the AP/RSE register is amended to \$1,200 for retention for a period of 5 years.

## Part II – Q&As

### **Registered Geotechnical Engineer (RGE)**

1.	<b>What is the major role of an RGE ?</b>
	Under the B(A)O, it introduces the requirement for the appointment of an RGE for the geotechnical elements of building works and street works. The RGE appointed will undertake the investigation, design and supervision of geotechnical works and will be statutorily responsible for such works.
2.	<b>Who are qualified to apply for registration as RGE ?</b>
	<p>i) The person should be a Registered Professional Engineer (RPE) in the geotechnical engineering discipline, and for a continuous period of 1 year within the 3 years preceding the date of his application, he has had such practical experience gained in Hong Kong as the Geotechnical Engineers Registration Committee (GERC) considers appropriate; or</p> <p>ii) Within 12 months upon commencement of the registration system for RGE on 31 December 2004: an RPE in the structural or civil engineering discipline who has such practical experience in geotechnical engineering as may be approved by the GERC, and for a continuous period of 1 year within the 3 years immediately preceding the date of his application, he has had practical experience in geotechnical engineering gained in Hong Kong as the GERC considers appropriate; or</p> <p>iii) Within 12 months upon commencement of the registration system for RGE on 31 December 2004: an AP in the list of engineers or RSE who complies with the conditions specified in section 53I(2)(a) of the BO and the detailed requirements as stipulated in Practice Note for Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers 293 (PNAP 293) on “Registration of Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers as Registered Geotechnical Engineers”.</p>
3.	<b>How to apply for registration as RGE ?</b>
	The applicant should submit the completed specified Form BA1 and the prescribed fee for application for inclusion of name in the register, together with the information/documents as mentioned in the Advisory Notes for Completion

	of Form BA1. Form BA1 and the advisory notes can be downloaded from the website of the Buildings Department ( <a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/bd">www.info.gov.hk/bd</a> ).
4.	<b>Where can I find the information in connection with application for registration as RGE ?</b>
	Please refer to Practice Note for Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers 43 (PNAP 43) on “Application for Registration as Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers”. Application Form (i.e. Form BA1), Advisory Notes for Completion of Form BA1 and PNAP 43 can be downloaded from the website of the Buildings Department ( <a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/bd">www.info.gov.hk/bd</a> ). Enquiries regarding registration as RGE can also be addressed to the Registration Unit of the Buildings Department, 12/F – 18/F, Pioneer Centre, 750 Nathan Road, Kowloon (Tel No: 2626 1192 and Fax No: 2625 0437).

### **Contractors Registration**

1.	<b>What are the new compositions of the CRC ?</b>
	<p>(1) In relation to a CRC appointed to assist the Building Authority in considering applications for inclusion in a register of general building contractors kept under section 8A(1)(a) of the BO, the CRC consists of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Building Authority's representative;</li> <li>(b) 3 persons, 1 of whom is nominated by each of the Architects Registration Board, the Engineers Registration Board and the Surveyors Registration Board from the lists of AP, RSE and RGE;</li> <li>(c) 3 persons nominated by The Hong Kong Construction Association Ltd.;</li> <li>(d) 1 person nominated by The Hong Kong E &amp; M Contractors' Association Limited; and</li> <li>(e) 1 person selected by the Building Authority from among persons nominated by such bodies as the Building Authority may think fit.</li> </ul> <p>(2) In relation to a CRC appointed to assist the Building Authority in considering applications for inclusion in a register of specialist contractors kept under section 8A(1)(b) of the BO, the CRC consists of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Building Authority's representative;</li> <li>(b) 3 persons, 1 of whom is nominated by each of the Architects</li> </ul>

	<p>Registration Board, the Engineers Registration Board and the Surveyors Registration Board from the lists of AP, RSE and RGE;</p> <p>(c) 3 persons nominated by The Hong Kong Construction Association Ltd.; and</p> <p>(d) 2 persons selected by the Building Authority from among persons nominated by such bodies as the Building Authority may think fit.</p>
2.	<b>How long is the registration period for registered general building contractors and registered specialist contractors ?</b>
	The registration period for registered general building contractors and registered specialist contractors is 3 years.
3.	<b>When I apply for inclusion in the registers of general building contractors or specialist contractors, do I need to obtain an endorsement, in the specified form, of an AP, an RSE or The Hong Kong Construction Association Ltd ?</b>
	When you apply for inclusion in the registers of general building contractors or specialist contractors, you do not need to obtain the endorsement of an AP, an RSE or The Hong Kong Construction Association Ltd in the specified form. However the project references to substantiate your experience have to be endorsed by the relevant persons involved in the project. For details please refer to Practice Note for Registered Contractors No. 38.
4.	<b>Where can I obtain the specified forms for contractors registration and who should I write to if I want to make enquiries on contractors registration?</b>
	Specified forms (i.e. Forms BA2, BA2A, BA2B and BA2C) in relation to contractors registration can be downloaded from the website of the Buildings Department ( <a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/bd">www.info.gov.hk/bd</a> ). Enquiries regarding contractors registration can be addressed to the Registration Unit of the Buildings Department, 12/F – 18/F, Pioneer Centre, 750 Nathan Road, Kowloon (Tel No: 2626 1192 and Fax No: 2625 0437).

### **Registration Period of AP/RSE**

1.	<b>How long is the registration period of AP/RSE upon commencement of the B(A)O ?</b>
	The registration period of AP/RSE is 5 years upon commencement of the

	B(A)O.
2.	<b>How much is the application fee for retention of a name in the AP/RSE register ?</b>
	The application fee for retention of a name in the AP/RSE register for 5 years is \$1,200.
3.	<b>When should I submit an application for retention of name in the AP/RSE register ?</b>
	An application for retention of a name in the AP/RSE register shall be made so as to be received by the Building Authority not earlier than 4 months and not later than 28 days prior to the date of the expiry of the registration. Application for retention submitted outside the said period will not be accepted.
4.	<b>Where can I obtain the specified form for application for retention of a name in the AP/RSE register ?</b>
	Specified form (i.e. Form BA1A) for application for retention of a name in the AP/RSE register can be downloaded from the website of the Buildings Department ( <a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/bd">www.info.gov.hk/bd</a> ).