

20 October 2026

To : All Authorized Persons
Registered Structural Engineers
Registered Geotechnical Engineers
Registered Inspectors
Registered General Building Contractors
Registered Specialist Contractors
Registered Minor Works Contractors

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission of Electronic Test Reports in Standardised Test Report Formats

Since August 2023, the Public Works Laboratories (PWL) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and their contract laboratories have adopted electronic test reports for all compliance tests for public works contracts. This requirement has been extended to compliance tests performed by accredited laboratories under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) engaged by contractors of public works contracts with effect from 1 August 2026. The electronic test reports are authenticated by digital signatures, rendering them tamper-proof once signed, and their validity and traceability can be verified as and when required.

2. Further to my circular letter dated 17 December 2025 encouraging the submission of standardised material test reports with digital signatures¹, the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) has advised that all HOKLAS accredited laboratories will be equipped to issue electronic test reports in standardised formats² for the following HOKLAS accredited tests by 1 December 2026:

- (a) Compressive strength tests of concrete/grout cubes;
- (b) Compressive strength tests of concrete cores;
- (c) Physical tests of steel reinforcing bars including mass per meter, tensile properties, bend performance and surface geometry;
- (d) Chemical composition (product analysis) of steel reinforcing bars; and

¹ A digital signature supported by a recognised certificate issued by the Postmaster General or other certification authorities recognised under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553).

² A series of standardised test report formats (referred to as the “Standard Forms”), jointly developed by the PWL, the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the HKAS, can be downloaded from the following website: <https://lims.cedd.gov.hk/test-report-standardisedform?categoryCode=0013>.

- (e) In-situ bulk density tests and in-situ dry density tests of soils by the sand replacement method and determination of relative compaction of fill materials.

3. To promote the digital transformation of the construction industry and ensure authenticity and traceability of the test reports, you are requested to adopt and submit electronic test reports in standardised formats with digital signatures for the five accredited tests mentioned in paragraph 2 above starting from **1 December 2026**.

4. To facilitate such submissions, the Electronic Submission Hub (ESH) of the Buildings Department (BD) has enabled the acceptance of electronic test reports with digital signatures since 29 August 2026. System enhancement to support the submission of electronic statements of certification signed by authorized signatories of registered contractors and registered structural engineers as per the approval conditions will be completed by the end of November 2026. A training video on the submission procedures through ESH will also be uploaded to the ESH landing page (under “New features & Online Tutorials”).

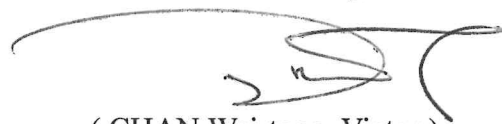
5. The submission of electronic test reports through ESH will also facilitate the BD in using the CEDD’s web-based SmarTest system for automatic checking of test reports, hence enhancing efficiency in processing the reports, the Certificate on Completion of Building Works Resulting in a New Building and Application for Permit to Occupy Such Building (Form BA 13) and the Certificate on Completion of Building Works Not Resulting in a New Building or of Street Works (Form BA 14).

6. For paper-based test reports or electronic test reports without digital signatures for the above five accredited tests submitted after 1 December 2026, you will be required to submit supplementary information to justify their authenticity e.g. a letter signed by the office bearer of the HOKLAS accredited laboratory confirming that the reports were issued by the laboratory. In this connection, please note that it is the intention of the BD to phase out the acceptance of paper-based test reports and electronic test reports without digital signatures in the long run.

7. The adoption of digitally-signed electronic test reports will continue to be extended to a wider range of accredited tests in the near future. You are therefore encouraged to request laboratories to issue digitally-signed electronic test reports for other accredited tests where such services are available.

8. You are advised to draw the attention of your clients and the HOKLAS accredited laboratories engaged in the works under your charge to the content of this circular letter.

Yours faithfully,



(CHAN Wai-tong, Victor)
Assistant Director/New Buildings 2
for Director of Buildings

c.c. CEDD
Hong Kong Accreditation Service
The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong