

27 February 2023

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Streamlining Measures for Structural Works**

To facilitate the development process and the processing of structural-related submissions under the Buildings Ordinance, the Buildings Department (BD) has implemented the following streamlining measures in respect of superstructure, foundation, excavation and lateral support (ELS) works and the sharing of information through the Central Data Bank (CDB):

#### **Superstructure Works**

- (a) Approval of plans and consent to the commencement of works for secondary structural elements, such as precast façade, glass canopy, skylight and balustrade, may be granted concurrently, provided that the first superstructure consent of the building development has been obtained and the relevant conditions for granting consent to carry out such works are fulfilled. Common conditions for granting consent for these types of works are available on BD's website ([www.bd.gov.hk](http://www.bd.gov.hk)) under the "Common Conditions and Requirements" page of the "Resources" section for reference;

#### **Foundation Works**

- (b) The review of piling design with back-analyses and the updated pile loading schedule plan as required under paragraph 13 of the Practice Note for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers APP-18 can be submitted together with Form BA14 certifying completion of the piling works and the corresponding piling record plans. BD will proceed to select piles for load test and process the pile loading schedule plan concurrently, so as to speed up the processing of Form BA14;
- (c) Consent to the commencement and carrying out of the installation of working piles for driven piles may be granted without completion of proof load test on trial piles, provided that the results of Pile Driving Analyser (PDA) test with Case Pile Wave Analysis Program (CAPWAP) analysis of the trial piles are found satisfactory and the relevant conditions for granting consent are fulfilled. Proof load test on trial piles may be carried out concurrently with the working pile installation and the load test reports/performance review report of trial piles should be submitted within 14 days after completion of the tests;

## ELS Works

- (d) Consent to the commencement and carrying out of the vertical retaining elements for ELS works (e.g. sheet piling) may be granted together with the initial stage of excavation works not exceeding 1.5 m below ground level and erection of the first layer of lateral supports if applicable, provided that the initial stage excavation works would not commence before the submission of Form BA14 certifying completion of construction of the vertical retaining elements; and

## CDB

- (e) Upon certifying completion of works, authorized persons (AP) /registered structural engineers (RSE) /registered geotechnical engineers (RGE) are reminded to submit the necessary information including test reports of new/innovative building materials/components/construction systems that had been approved for use and were eventually used in the project. BD may consider to include such information in the CDB to facilitate sharing of the information with the industry.
2. AP/RSE/RGE are requested to specify in the cover letter of the application for adopting the above streamlining measures and provide the necessary supporting information (e.g. documents to demonstrate compliance with the consent conditions, PDA test result, CAPWAP analysis) to facilitate efficient processing of the application.

Yours faithfully,



(AU-YEUNG Hoi-pang)  
Assistant Director/New Buildings 2  
for Building Authority

c.c. The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong