

## **Geoguide 5 Guide to Slope Maintenance**

Regular inspections and maintenance are essential to the continued stability of slopes and retaining walls. The Geoguide 5 – Guide to Slope Maintenance published by the Geotechnical Engineering Office<sup>1</sup> recommends standards of good practice for the maintenance of man-made slopes and retaining walls, also man-made features (e.g. surface cover and drains) provided to natural hillsides. The standards recommended should be adopted when specifying maintenance requirements in site formation submissions in pursuance of regulation 8(1)(bb)(E) of the Building (Administration) Regulations.

2. The Geoguide 5 recommends that the designer of a slope or retaining wall should prepare a Maintenance Manual, to assist the owner(s) or parties required to maintain the land in understanding the maintenance requirements. It should include the information listed in Chapter 2 of Geoguide 5. The requirement for submitting the Maintenance Manual at the certificate for completion (Form BA 14) stage should be specified in the site formation submission.

3. The Maintenance Manual should be submitted in duplicate together with the Form BA 14. Upon acknowledgement by the Building Authority, a copy of the Maintenance Manual will be returned to the authorized persons/registered structural engineers for onward transmission to the owner(s) or the parties for future maintenance of the development.

4. The Geoguide 5 clarifies that the scope of the Engineer Inspections for Maintenance should include a review of previous Stability Assessment.

5. An abridged version of the Geoguide 5, viz. Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance, is available from the website at [www.cedd.gov.hk](http://www.cedd.gov.hk).

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6. Under the Minor Works Control System, certain routine maintenance works to slopes and retaining walls are designated as minor works, which may be carried out under the simplified requirements as an alternative to obtaining prior approval and consent under the Buildings Ordinance. Reference can be made to Schedule 1 of the Building (Minor Works) Regulation and Practice Note for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers APP-147 regarding the list of minor works items and the simplified requirements respectively.

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