

### **Testing of Building Materials**

Authorized Persons (APs), Registered Structural Engineers (RSEs) and Registered Geotechnical Engineers (RGEs) may be approached from time to time for advice on the acceptability of building materials/products. This practice note sets out the Building Authority's position which may be of assistance to APs, RSEs and RGEs in preparing advice to manufacturers, suppliers, registered general building contractors, registered specialist contractors, registered minor works contractors and building owners.

2. Under the Buildings Ordinance (BO), APs, RSEs, RGEs and registered contractors (RCs) have responsibilities to supervise building works including the selection and application of building materials/products and to certify compliance with relevant provisions of the BO upon completion of works. In this connection, it should be noted that the BO contains no provision whereby the Building Authority (BA) may issue a certificate, a test or assessment report with respect to these materials/products. The BA takes the position, therefore, of relying on APs, RSEs, RGEs and independent laboratories for testing for compliance with standards and for certification. For certification of the building materials/products used and their compliance with standards, upon completion of works, please refer to PNAP APP-13.

3. The BA will recognize those laboratories accredited by the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) or by other laboratory accreditation bodies which have reached mutual recognition arrangements (MRA) with HOKLAS. You should ensure that the tests conducted by an accredited laboratory are within its scope of accreditation. You may find such accredited laboratories at the web site of HOKLAS or the MRA partners of HOKLAS:

- [http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/hoklas/laboratory\\_no.htm](http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/hoklas/laboratory_no.htm)
- <http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/hoklas/agreement.htm>

4. The following list of materials/products, which is not exhaustive, would normally be required to be tested by accredited laboratories as mentioned in paragraph 3:

- (a) Concrete cube and core;
- (b) Steel reinforcement
- (c) Reinforcement splices/couplers;
- (d) Curtain wall systems; and
- (e) Fire rated products/materials/construction components.

## **Fire Rated Products/Materials/Construction Components**

5. Fire rated products/materials/construction components such as compartment walls, protective cover to structural steel, fire rated doors and other building materials for use in fire resisting construction should comply with the performance standards as laid down in the Building (Construction) Regulation 90 by making reference to the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011 issued by the BA (the “FS Code”).

6. The fire properties of products, materials or construction components should be tested in accordance with the standards stipulated in the FS Code, or, assessed against such standards based on relevant test reports. The APs, RSEs or RGEs are required to ensure that the test and assessment reports (if applicable) are prepared in accordance with Clauses E16.1 and E16.2 of the FS Code. Reports with validity periods expired will not be accepted.

7. You may find the certification bodies, as recognized by the BA under Clauses E16.1 of the FS Code, at the web site of the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS) or the partners of HKCAS under the multilateral recognition arrangements:

- [http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/hkcas/cb\\_no.htm](http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/hkcas/cb_no.htm)
- <http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/hkcas/agreement.htm>

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