

**Works Which May be Carried out
by More Than One Category of Contractors**

The detailed scope of works for each category of contractors is stated in Appendices A to F to this practice note. It is difficult to give an exhaustive or absolute demarcation among the scope of works of different categories of contractors. Whether the contractors in a category possess the recognized competence, experience, expertise, plant and resources in carrying out the proposed works should be the primary consideration of the AP/RSE/RGE. Additional guidelines in paragraph 3 below are provided for reference.

2. In situations not covered by any of the published guidelines and when unique site characteristics call for special consideration, the AP/RSE/RGE of the proposed works are expected to make professional judgment according to the aforesaid principles on the selection of the appropriate category of contractors. Should such circumstances arise, the BA will consider proposals from the AP/RSE/RGE on a case by case basis.

3. Additional guidelines on the demarcation of different scope of works among categories of contractors are as follows:

(a) Temporary Works

RGBC, RSC(F), RSC(SF) and RSC(D) may generally carry out temporary works which are associated with the execution of the respective types of general building works and specialist works. These temporary works include hoarding, covered walkways, sheet piling, soldier piling, pipe piling, shoring, rock filled slopes for demolition, protective and precautionary measures.

(b) Pile Cap Works

Pile cap works may be carried out either by RGBC or RSC(F). These contractors may also carry out the associated temporary works, such as excavation and lateral support works, which are necessary for the construction of the pile caps.

(c) Basement Works

Excavation for basements, construction of basement walls, slabs and drains, which do not form part of pile caps fall within the scope of works of the RGBC.

(d) Foundation Works

Diaphragm walls should be carried out by RSC(F) when the penetration depth exceeds 3m. The penetration depths of foundation elements are generally measured from the ground level which may be existing or newly formed. Spread footing and raft foundation works may be carried out by either RSC(F) or RGBC.

(e) Landscape and Street Works

On grade roads, streets, landscape features, etc., should generally be carried out by RGBC. Such works which do not involve the construction of a roof or foundation, and drains associated with landscape works in the periphery of buildings not forming part of the permanent drains of buildings may also be carried out by RSC(SF).

(f) Retaining Structures

Retaining structures involving diaphragm walls, bore-piles, caissons or other foundation works, excluding those mentioned in paragraph 3(a) above should be carried out by RSC(F).

Appendix B of PNAP APP-18 stipulates that mini piles are not to take lateral loads and therefore not commonly used in site formation works. Its construction could be up to 400mm diameter and should therefore be carried out by an RSC(F) or if less than 3m deep, by RGBC but not RSC(SF).

(g) Dredging Works

The general meaning of dredging in construction involves taking up of mud from sea or riverbeds that should generally be classified as site formation works. If the said works fall within the scope of works as set out in Appendix E of this practice note, it should be carried out by RSC(SF), otherwise, it should be carried out by RGBC.

(h) Reclamation Works

Reclamation works usually involves the forming of land, construction of seawalls or retaining structures and should be considered as site formation works to be carried out by RSC(SF).

(i) Trial Pit Works

Trial pit works should normally be carried out by RSC(GIFW). Other registered contractors except RSC(V) may also carry out such works if the trial pits are excavated solely for the following purposes:

- (i) exposing existing shallow foundations;
- (ii) locating utilities, underground structures and installations;
- (iii) verifying the density of the backfill soil behind retaining structures (Note: insitu-density test has to be carried out by a laboratory which is accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service for performing such test); and

(iv) other studies not involving the investigation of ground conditions or soil/rock descriptions, e.g. archaeological studies.

(j) **Installation and Inspection of Fire Dampers**

Fire dampers may be installed either by RGBC or RSC(V). For fire dampers installed by RGBC, RSC(V) should be engaged to inspect and certify that the fire dampers are in safe and efficient working order pursuant to Clause E8.3 of the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings. For fire dampers installed by RSC(V), the same RSC(V) could inspect and certify the fire dampers. Requirements on the inspection and certification of fire dampers by RSC(V) are provided in PNRC 25.

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