
Construction Site Safety Pay for Safety Scheme

Introduction

Construction works may inevitably entail risky activities. Responsible contractors should adopt safe work practices and provide necessary precautionary measures to ensure construction sites under their charge are safe. Authorized persons, registered structural engineers and registered geotechnical engineers are also required under the Buildings Ordinance to ensure that building works under their supervisions are carried out in a safe manner.

2. While relevant parties should comply with the requirements on site safety monitoring under the Technical Memorandum for Supervision Plans and the Code of Practice for Site Supervision published by the Buildings Department, it is also important to integrate site safety into the overall management responsibilities, to promote safety training for all levels of the parties involved and to improve safety performance through procurement and contractual arrangement. As contractors are required to provide continuous site supervisions and have the most prominent legal obligations to assure construction site safety, they should have allowed in their tenders the cost of meeting such obligations. However, if such costs are not distinctly identified as safety-related items for pricing, valuation and payment, resources allocated for the proper provision of relevant measures may be undermined, thus jeopardising site safety.

Pay for Safety Scheme

3. Pay for Safety Scheme (PFSS) introduced since 1996 specifically accords proper identity to the cost for construction site safety. Under the PFSS, an employer is obliged to pay the contractor upon the contractor's satisfactory completion of the safety-related items including training, as vetted and certified by the employer's representative, at the pre-priced rates set out in the Site Safety section in the Bills of Quantities or Schedule of Rates.

4. The following links are relevant:

- (a) Construction Site Safety Manual issued by the Development Bureau
(http://www.devb.gov.hk/en/publications_and_press_releases/publications/construction_site_safety_manual/index.html);
- (b) Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation (Cap 59AF) (<http://www.elegislation.gov.hk/>);

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- (c) The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Construction Association's Safety Partnering Programme (<http://www.safetypartnering.com>);
- (d) Guidelines on the Adoption of the Pay for Safety Scheme (http://www.cic.hk/cic_data/pdf/about_cic/publications/eng/PFSS_eng_final.pdf) and Reference Materials on Construction Site Welfare, Health and Safety Measures (March 2017) (Chapter 7) ([http://www.cic.hk/cic_data/pdf/about_cic/publications/eng/reference_materials/Site%20Welfare_booklet_e%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.cic.hk/cic_data/pdf/about_cic/publications/eng/reference_materials/Site%20Welfare_booklet_e%20(final).pdf)) published by the Construction Industry Council; and
- (e) Safety training courses by the Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre of the Labour Department (<http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/osh/content5.htm>) and Occupational Safety and Health Council (<http://www.oshc.org.hk/eng/main/>).

5. While Authorized Persons are encouraged to recommend their clients to adopt the PFSS in construction contracts, contractors should also take the opportunity to initiate such provisions so as to flourish a fair and equitable environment for the contracting parties to handle site safety issues.

6. A similar practice note has been issued to Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers.

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