

**Guidance Notes for Application of RGE
on Professional Interviews under Buildings Ordinance Section 3(5)
(Geotechnical Engineers Registration Committee)**

The Geotechnical Engineers Registration Committee (RC) has a statutory function to assist the Building Authority (BA) in considering applications for inclusion in the geotechnical engineers' register. The RC is required to examine an applicant and to ensure that he/she has the prescribed experience. In this process, the RC conducts professional interviews.

2. An applicant must satisfy the RC on his/her suitability for inclusion in the particular register for which he/she applies. In this context, an applicant has to demonstrate that he/she has adequate practical experience and general knowledge in his/her profession to meet local requirements and to discharge his/her duties in Hong Kong. He/she will also be expected to have acquired a working knowledge of the Buildings Ordinance (BO) and allied matters: the main criterion is a thorough understanding of general principles and fundamental requirements through his/her actual work experience.

3. The principal subjects upon which the RC is likely to test an applicant's knowledge include:

- (a) The objectives of the BO and Regulations and the mechanism of control;
- (b) The statutory role, functions and duties of a Registered Geotechnical Engineer (RGE) and those of the BA in respect of private building development in Hong Kong;
- (c) Sufficient general awareness of local conditions to practise efficiently and effectively in Hong Kong without having to make frequent enquiries on matters of common local knowledge;
- (d) a working knowledge of the BO and in particular those Regulations, relevant codes of practice, geotechnical standards, technical guidance documents pertinent to the design and supervision of geotechnical works;
- (e) The procedures for an RGE to follow in order to meet local statutory requirements; and
- (f) Practice notes, circular letters and other advisory information published by government departments and relevant to an RGE.

In addition, the applicant is expected to demonstrate the adequacy of his/her knowledge and experience to perform the duties of an RGE for a typical building project in Hong Kong.

4. An applicant must provide proof of his/her compliance with Building (Administration) Regulation 3(4A).

5. A list of publications, including the BO and other legislation relevant to the building industry, can be found in Practice Notes for Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers (PNAP) ADV-2. The publications are available from the Government Publications Sales Centre. PNAP ADV-2 can be downloaded from the Buildings Department website: <http://www.bd.gov.hk>.