Chapter 7 SITE SAFETY PERSONNEL

7.1 CONTRACTOR'S SAFETY PERSONNEL

7.1.1 Statutory Requirements

- (a) The Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) Regulations (FIU(SO&SS)R) require a contractor or a specialist contractor to employ one registered Safety Officer on a full-time basis when the total number of persons employed by him in construction sites is 100 or more. He must also employ one Safety Supervisor in each site with 20 or more persons under his employment. Safety Supervisors must not be required to carry out other work that would prevent them from carrying out their safety duties properly.
- (b) A contractor or a specialist contractor shall not employ any person as a Safety Officer unless that person is registered under the ((FIU(SO&SS)R).
- (c) The responsibility of a Safety Officer is to assist the proprietor of an industrial undertaking in promoting the safety and health of persons employed. The main duties as stipulated in the (FIU(SO&SS)R) are as follows:
 - (i) advising the proprietor as to measures to be taken in the interest of safety and health and, with the proprietor's approval, implementing such measures;
 - (ii) inspecting the workplace to identify potential hazards and reporting the findings with recommendations for correction to the proprietor;
 - (iii) investigating accidents (with or without personal injury) and dangerous occurrences and reporting with recommendations for prevention to the proprietor;
 - (iv) advising the proprietor of any repair or maintenance in respect of premises, plant and equipment that ought to be

carried out in the interest of safety and health;

- (v) assisting in the supervision of Safety Supervisors;
- (vi) receiving, discussing and counter
 signing reports submitted to him by
 Safety Supervisors; and
- (vii) preparing and submitting a monthly report to the proprietor in a specified form.
- (d) The responsibility of a Safety Supervisor is to assist the proprietor and any person employed as a Safety Officer in promoting the safety and health of persons employed. The main duties are as follows: -
 - (i) assisting a Safety Officer in carrying out his duties;
 - (ii) supervising the observance by the
 workers of the safety standards;
 - (iii) advising the proprietor or the Safety
 Officer as to the observance by the
 workers of the safety standards;
 - (iv) promoting the safe execution of work in the construction site; and
 - (v) preparing and submitting a weekly report to the proprietor or the Safety Officer in a specified form.

7.1.2 Contractual Requirements

The following are general requirements of the safety personnel for PWP contracts. The Architect/Engineer may stipulate or may have stipulated different requirements to suit special circumstances under the individual contracts, such as the nature and complexity of the Works, the number of isolated sites, the potential risks anticipated on site and the value of the contract.

(a) Safety Officer

Total

(i)The Contractor shall employ full-time Safety Officers in works contracts in accordance with the total no. of workers employed on the Works or in connection with the Contract whether in the employ of the Contractor or his sub-contractor in accordance with the following table:

Total mo. of full-time Safety Officer

workers	
50 to 200	1 -
201 to 700	2 (at least 1 of them shall be a safety officer who has been qualified and registered under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) Regulations as a safety officer for at least 3 years and during which has gained the relevant experience in site safety administration of the Contract)
701 to 1200	officer who has been qualified and registered under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) Regulations as a safety officer for at least 3 years and during which has gained the relevant experience in site safety administration
1201 and above	4 (at least 2 of them shall be safety officers who have been qualified and registered under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) Regulations as a safety officer for at least 3 years and during which have gained the relevant experience in site safety administration of the Contract)

Where the total number is less than 50, the Safety Officer may be engaged part- time but with sufficient presence on the Site to perform his duties of a Safety Officer. The time thus spent on Site shall not be less than 12 hours per week excluding attendance of the Site Safety Management Committee meeting and Site Safety Committee meeting.

(ii)For a term contract, the Contractor shall employ one full time Safety Officer. Where the total number of workers exceeds 200, additional Safety Officers shall be employed in accordance with the following table.

Minimum no. of full-time Safety Officer

workers	
201 to 700	2 (at least 1 of them shall be a safety officer who has been qualified and registered under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) Regulations as a safety officer for at least 3 years and during which has gained the relevant experience in site safety administration of the Contract)
701 to 1200	officer who has been qualified and registered under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) Regulations as a safety officer for at least 3 years and during which has gained the relevant experience in site safety administration
1201 and above	4 (at least 2 of them shall be safety officers who have been qualified and registered under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) Regulations as a safety officer for at least 3 years and during which have gained the relevant experience in site safety administration of the Contract)

(iii) In addition to the duties stipulated in the legislation, a Safety Officer is required to

- supervise and monitor the implementation of the Safety Plan/Contractor's site safety obligations set out in the contract.
- ensure the sub-contractors and all persons working on the Site are made aware of and comply with the Safety Plan/Contractor's site safety obligations set out in the contract.
- maintain a safety diary
- carry out a weekly site inspection with the Architect/Engineer's staff and complete inspection checklist in a format to be agreed by the Architect/Engineer's Representative.
- prepare detailed reports on dangerous occurrences and serious incidents/accidents and complete standard forms provided by Architect/Engineer.
- prepare training programme, arrange and/or conduct trainings and maintain training records.
- co-ordinate with sub-contractors or other contractors on the preparation of specific method statements including risk assessments.
- keep a register of the names, telephone numbers and addresses of the Safety Supervisors, Safety Representatives, competent persons and competent examiners employed on the contract.
- keep and maintain a record of all examination and test certificates required by any legislation or the Contract.

- prepare a monthly report for consideration at the meeting of the Site Safety Management Committee
- attend meetings of the Site Safety Committee and/or the Site Safety Management Committee.
- carry out internal safety audits to monitor the implementation of the Safety Plan at intervals of not less than once every six months.

(b) Safety Supervisor

- (i) The Contractor shall employ at least one Safety Supervisor to work full- time on Site. Where the number of workers employed on the Works or in connection with the Contract whether in the employ of the Contractor or by his subcontractor exceeds 50, the number of Safety Supervisors to be provided shall be increased by one for every additional 50 workers.
- (ii) For works contracts, in addition to (i) above, each sub-contractor of the first tier (directly employed by the Contractor) engaging 20 persons or more in the activities for which he is responsible shall provide at least one full-time Safety Supervisor.
- (iv) For term contracts, in addition to (i) above, the Contractor shall provide at least one full-time Safety Supervisor at each work location where the number of workers engaged there exceeds 20.
- (iv) Safety Supervisors must have at least three years experience on construction work and have completed an appropriate safety training course provided for Safety Supervisors.
- (v) In addition to the duties stipulated in the legislation, a Safety Supervisor is required to

- carry out safety inspections at least daily and complete checklist
- attend meetings of the Site Safety
 Committee and the Site Safety
 Management Committee
- conduct tool box talks if he has completed courses on safety training techniques.

(c) Safety Representatives

A safety representative is the foreman or ganger of each labour group or team working on the Site and appointed by the Contractor. He is required to ensure

- that directives on safety and health matters from the Contractor, the Safety Officer and Safety Supervisors are duly carried out;
- safety practices are adopted by the workers; and
- the use of personal protective clothing and equipment by the workers at all times.

7.2 ARCHITECT/ENGINEER'S SAFETY PERSONNEL

7.2.1 The Architect/Engineer's duties on site safety

- (a) The Architect/Engineer has the following
 duties with respect to safety on site :
 - (i) administer those clauses in the contract
 relating to construction safety and
 health;
 - (ii) ensure the safety of his site staff, by
 providing or arranging suitable
 training, protective clothing, safety
 equipment, first-aid and welfare
 facilities etc.;
 - (iii) comment on the adequacy of the Safety Plan;

- (iv) chair the Site Safety Management Committee meetings and arrange for the preparation of minutes of the meeting;
- (v) carry out site safety inspections and ensure prompt follow up action taken by the Contractor on deficiencies identified;
- (vi) consider safety audit reports received and monitor progress of the action plan submitted by the Contractor.
- (vii) take follow-up action against deficiencies identified in site inspections, Inspection Reports received from the Labour Department and Marine Department as well as Improvement Notices and Suspension Notices.
- (b) The Architect/Engineer's Representative and other resident site staff will assist the Architect/Engineer in carrying out the above duties.

7.2.2 Resident Safety Staff

(a) General

(Resident Safety Staff is to include staff working part time on site)

It is the Architect/Engineer's responsibility to determine his resident safety staff requirements and to assign construction safety duties to his site staff, having regard to the size and nature of the contract concerned.

- (b) The most senior staff on site should be assigned the responsibility to assist the Architect/Engineer in dealing with construction safety matters. The secretary of the Site Safety Management Committee shall be appointed by the Architect/Engineer.
- (c) Those site staff who are not assigned to exclusively deal with construction safety matters should familiarize themselves with

safety requirements and the applicable sections of the safety legislation (particularly the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations) so that they can detect any unsafe working methods or breach of safety legislation and bring such matter to the attention of the contractor's Site Agent or Safety Officer.

(d) For works contracts and Design and Build contracts with estimated contract sums of over \$500 million involving employment of Resident Site Staff (RSS) by Consultants, at least one safety personnel, who shall have the same or equivalent academic qualifications for registration as Registered Safety Officer, shall be included in the RSS establishment to act as safety advisor to the Architect/Engineer*.

7.3 Employment and Performance of Registered Safety Officers (RSO)

- (a) The number of RSO required under each contract depends on the number of workers employed on the Works or in connection with the contract whether in the employ of the Contractor or his sub-contractor in accordance with section 7.1.2(a)(i) or (ii) above under that contract.
- (b) For contracts where full-time RSO is not warranted, part-time RSO shall be employed. When a contract requires a part-time RSO, the total number of contracts served by the same RSO concurrently shall not be more than three. This is because the time to be spent by a part-time RSO stipulated in Chapter 3 shall be not less than 12 hours per week excluding attendance of the Site Safety Management Committee or Site Safety and Environmental Management Committee meetings and the Site Safety Committee or Site Safety and Environmental Committee meetings. therefore reasonable for an RSO not to serve more than three contracts at the same time except for contracts which are nearing substantial completion and may no longer require 12 hours site attendance by the RSO.

(c) RSO database maintained by Development Bureau

To ensure that the contractual attendance requirements of the RSOs are met and only RSOs with acceptable performance are employed, a database called PWP Construction Site Safety and Environmental Statistics (PCSES) system is maintained by Development Bureau (DEVB) keeping records on the employment status and performance of RSO engaged in public works contracts. The

Architect/Engineer or his delegated representative shall report any new appointment/changes/termination of the employment RSO under a contract within 2 weeks by entering the information in the PCSES system or using the RSO Notification Form in Appendix II under "Restricted" cover if the RSO database in PCSES system is upkept by the Departmental Safety and Environmental Advisory Unit (DSEAU) in the Works Department (WD). For replacement of RSO, two separate forms should be used with one for the newly employed and the other for the outgoing RSO.

(d) Procedure for Approving new RSO for public works contracts

The Contractor shall not commence any construction on Site without the appointment and attendance of the required number of RSO, unless expressly permitted by the Architect/Engineer in writing. The employment or replacement of each RSO shall also be approved by the Architect/Engineer in accordance with the following procedure:

- (i) For each proposed nomination of RSO, the Architect/Engineer shall request the Contractor to provide the following information:
 - a copy of the proposed RSO's registration letter issued by Labour Department
 - previous employment records of the proposed RSO, including his engineering experience / background
 - present engagement of the proposed RSO in other contracts including public works contracts, Housing Authority contracts and private sector contracts, and the capacity in which he is employed (part-time or full-time); the anticipated completion date of such contracts should also be provided
- (ii) If the submitted information indicates that the proposed RSO is already working either full-time on another contract or part-time in three other contracts, then the proposed nomination should be rejected (see para. 7.3(b) above) unless it is

confirmed that the proposed nominated RSO has relinquished his employment in other contracts.

- (iii) If the Architect/Engineer or his delegated representative considers that the proposed RSO can be employed under his contract, he will then verify the current employment status and previous performance records, if any, of the proposed RSO in other public works contract(s) against the data stored in the PCSES system. For consultant managed contracts, a project officer provide the data extracted from the PCSES upkeeping For WDs the database in PCSES system by DSEAU, the Architect/Engineer or his delegated representative will verify the mentioned employment status and previous performance records of the RSO with the Departmental Safety and Environmental Adviser (DSEA) using the standard memo at I. DSEA shall Appendix furnish information to the Architect/Engineer within 5 working days of receipt based on information stored in the PCSES system.
- (iv) When there are doubts on the suitability of the proposed RSO, the Architect/Engineer shall seek the comments of the DSEA. DSEA shall provide his comment on the proposed nomination within 5 working days of receipt.
- (v) The Architect/Engineer shall then consider the proposed nomination based on the information collected and comments provided by DSEA taking also into consideration the following:
 - When the proposed RSO is already working full-time in a current contract, no approval shall be given for new employment under other contract(s).
 - When the nature of the Works is complex, or involves high risk operations, the proposed RSO should possess relevant engineering background and adequate experience meeting the requirements of the

Contract.

- If the performance of the proposed RSO has been rated "Poor" or "Very Poor" in other public works contract(s), the Architect/Engineer who had marked the "Poor" or "Very Poor" performance and/or the DSEA shall be consulted before making a decision on the proposed employment.
- If the proposed RSO is to work part-time in more than one contract, then the total number of contracts served by him concurrently shall in general not be more than three (para. 7.3(b) refers).
- (vi) After the employment of any approved new/replacement RSO by the Contractor, the Architect/Engineer shall upload appointment/change of employment status of RSO to the PCSES system and complete standard notification form Appendix II to DSEA within 2 weeks. For WDs upkeeping the RSO database in PCSES system by DSEAU, the Architect/Engineer shall notify the RSO employment to DSEA within 2 weeks using the standard notification form in Appendix II uploading to PCSES system by DSEAU.
- (vii) Unless a notification form is provided to the PCSES system, the employment of RSO a previously under registered contract will not be automatically regarded as terminated after completion date. Ιt is therefore important that the works departments should upload the notification to PCSES system as soon as it is confirmed that the Contract is completed and/or the RSO is no longer employed.
- (viii) For contracts administered by consultants, the reporting of RSO employment/performance to PCSES system and DSEA of the concerned works departments shall be done through the project consultant management office.
- (ix) If an RSO employed full-time under one contract has been found working concurrently under other contract(s)or

employed as part-time safety officer, when the total time of engagement in contracts concerned has exceeded 36 hours per week excluding attendance of the Site Safety Management Committee or Safety and Environmental Management Committee meetings and the Site Safety Committee or Site Safety Committee meetings, Environmental payment for "provide safety officer" under contracts participating in the Pay for Safety Scheme shall be deducted in accordance with the Method of Measurement. A remark shall also be made in the performance assessment report that the RSO has been over-engaged.

(e) Performance Assessment of RSOs for Public Works Contracts

- For having a continuous assessment on the (i) performance of the RSOs so as to provide timely reviews of the performance of the SOs and to identify possible areas for strive improvement to for further excellence, performance assessment RSOs (including those employed on fullpart-time basis) shall time or conducted for each one of the quarterly periods ending February, May, August and November. The standard proforma quarterly performance assessment of RSOs Appendix III. is Guidelines Assessment of Overall Performance of Safety Officer is also given at Appendix III.
- If the employment status of an RSO is changed (ii) due to works completion, replacement or removal from the contract because of unsatisfactory performance, etc. between the quarterly period ending May, August February, or November, performance assessment on the RSO shall completed by the standard using proforma in Appendix III.
- (iii) If the Architect/Engineer's Representative considers that performance of the RSO is unsatisfactory (viz. "Poor" or "Very Poor"), shall ensure that the situation the attention of brought to the

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contractor and RSO concerned in writing. The Architect/Engineer shall also duly reflect the unsatisfactory performance of the RSO in the quarterly performance report of the contractor and RSO.

- (iv) The performance of the RSO shall be assessed by the Architect/Engineer or his/her Representative with input from the respective DSEA as necessary. In case quarterly performance assessment report of the RSO is an "Outstanding", "Very "Poor" or Poor" report, substantiation at the remarks section of the standard proforma at Appendix III should be given to support the assessment. The "Outstanding", "Poor" or "Very Poor" also be endorsed by report shall directorate officer of the Project Office supervising the consultants contracts supervised by consultants) or an officer at a rank higher than the Architect/Engineer for the Contract if the Architect/Engineer for the Contract is not a directorate officer (for contracts supervised by in-house resources). In carrying the out assessment, remarks on the following aspects should be made:
 - adequacy of attendance and effort in site inspections, safety meetings, safety training and promotion
 - updating and keeping of records and statistics; preparation of reports, risk assessments and method statements
 - provision of practical advice and comments
 - responsiveness to advice and instructions from the Architect/Engineer or his/her Representative and Contractor and promptness in taking follow actions
 - discharge of duties by RSO as required by the Contract
- (v) For the avoidance of doubt, if there are more than one RSOs working under the same

public works contract, each RSO shall be appraised separately.

- (vi) After the performance assessment report at Appendix III has been completed, the Architect/Engineer for the Contract shall furnish а сору of the completed performance assessment report to the RSO being appraised and the contractor concerned within 3 days after the end of the assessment period. The RSO being appraised shall also be advised in the letter enclosing the performance assessment report that an appeal could be lodged pursuant to the mechanism in the ensuing paragraphs if he/she does not agree to the performance assessment in the report.
- (vii) If the RSO being appraised does not agree the Overall Performance quarterly performance assessment report, he/she shall lodge an appeal, together with the written representation, to the DSEA of the WD concerned within five working days (Saturdays, Sundays Public Holidays are not counted working days) after the receipt of the quarterly performance assessment report from the Architect/Engineer for Contract, with a copy to the project team of the Project Office. Late submission of an appeal by the RSO concerned shall not be entertained. DSEA will then arrange to review the quarterly performance assessment report concerned the upcoming meeting of the Site Safety Review Committee (SSRC), or other equivalent committee, of the WD chaired by Deputy Director or Assistant Director The Architect/Engineer for of the WD. the Contract may be invited to join the deliberation. For the avoidance of doubt, no legal representative at the SSRC, or other equivalent committee, of the WD chaired by Deputy Director or Assistant Director of the WD is allowed.
- (viii) If the RSO lodges an appeal but subsequently fails to provide written representations within the prescribed period, the SSRC (or other equivalent committee) will discuss the appeal

without the representations from the RSO concerned.

- (ix) The decision by SSRC (or other equivalent committee) shall be final. DSEA will notify the RSO concerned of the final decision on the rating on Overall Performance in the quarterly performance assessment report concerned in writing as soon as the final decision by SSRC (or other equivalent committee) has been made.
- All quarterly performance assessment reports of the RSOs shall be uploaded to PCSES system by WD within two weeks after the end of the assessment period. For WDs upkeeping the RSO database in PCSES system by DSEAU, the Architect/Engineer shall provide the completed Appendix III to DSEA within two weeks after the end of the assessment period for uploading to PCSES system by DSEAU.
- (xi) In case an appeal on the Overall Performance in the quarterly performance assessment report has been lodged by the RSO, the performance assessment report concerned shall be uploaded to the PCSES system by DSEAU within three days after SSRC (or other equivalent committee) has made the final decision.

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Only applicable for contracts administered by consultants

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Indorsed by [#] :			
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	[Contractor] [Safety Officer]	(Attn:)

[®] For consultants-managed contract

Guidelines on Assessment of Overall Performance of Safety Officer -

Outstanding Performance which is significantly and consistently better than that required by the

Contract.

Good Performance which is occasionally better than that required by the Contract.

Satisfactory Performance which fully meets requirements in the Contract.

Poor(a) Performance of the Safety Officer considered to be below that required by the Contract though without serious deficiencies; *OR*

- (b) Where instructions have to be repeatedly issued and work has consistently to be redone in order to attain the "Satisfactory" level; *OR*
- (c) Performance of the Safety Officer could only meet requirements in the Contract through enhanced supervision effort.

Very Poor (a) Performance of the Safety Officer considered to be significantly below that required by the Contract; *OR*

- (b) Where instructions have to be repeatedly issued and the work has consistently to be redone but is still unable to attain a "Satisfactory" level; *OR*
- (c) Performance of the Safety Officer could not meet requirements in the Contract through enhanced supervision effort.

Note:

Personal data provided in this Report on Performance of Safety Officer are to facilitate the Safety Officer performance assessment process in public works contracts. Access to the completed report is limited to the Safety Officer being appraised and those authorised persons who are involved in the administration of the public works contracts in Government Bureaux/Departments requiring reference to completed Report on Performance of Safety Officer and authorized person participated in activities related to the administration of the Public Works Programme Construction Site Safety and Environmental Statistics (PCSES) system. As the data subject, the Safety Officer being appraised has the right to seek access to and correct the personal data in his/her Report on Performance of Safety Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. Such request should be made to the Departmental Safety and Environmental Adviser of the Works Department overseeing the public works contracts concerned.