

10 July 1992

Works Branch Technical Circular No. 18/92

**General Specification and Standard Method
of Measurement for Civil Engineering Works**

(This circular updates and replaces Lands and Works Branch Technical Circular No. 21/88.)

Introduction

The Hong Kong Government General Specification for Civil Engineering Works, 1992 Edition (GS) and the Hong Kong Government Standard Method of Measurement for Civil Engineering Works, 1992 Edition (SMM), are now printed and ready for use. The GS lays down the quality of materials, the standards of workmanship, the testing methods and the acceptance criteria for civil engineering works undertaken for the Hong Kong Government. It supersedes "Public Works Department, Civil Engineering Office and Highways Office General Specification for Civil Engineering Works, 1977 Edition" and "Water Supplies Department, General Specification for Civil Engineering Works, 1987 Edition". The SMM is updated from the 1988 Edition and has largely been re-written to take into account the amendments and additions required by the GS.

Implementation

2. The GS and SMM should be used for all Works Group civil engineering contracts for which the first call for tenders is gazetted or otherwise notified on or after 1 October 1992.
3. Individual departments should arrange for circulation to all members of their staff who use and need to be familiar with the GS and the SMM.
4. The Works Branch will arrange for distribution of the GS and SMM to all Consultants on the directory of EACSB, Approved Contractors for Public Works and Approved Suppliers of Materials and Specialist Contractors for Public Works. The publications will also be available at Government Publications Centre for direct purchase.

Incorporation

5. As copies are to be provided to all Approved Contractors, the GS and SMM should not be attached to tender documents, nor bound into contract documents. Such exclusion should be reflected in the Conditions of Tender by referring to the documents and stating "not issued".

6. The SMM's incorporation is effected by the inclusion in all applicable contract documents of the General Preambles detailed in Part IV of the SMM and by reference in the Particular Specification. These Preambles state that the Bills of Quantities have been prepared in accordance with the 1992 Edition of the SMM. Since it is a requirement of Clause 59(1) of the General Conditions of Contract for Civil Engineering Works, 1990 Edition, that the Method of Measurement to be used in the contract is that which is stated in the Preamble to the Bills of Quantities, it is essential that the General Preambles detailed in the SMM are included in every contract document without amendment unless approval is obtained from the D1 (or higher) level officer administering the contract. The GS's incorporation is similarly effected by reference in the Particular Specification.

7. For a period of 6 months from 1 October 1992, all tenders called using the new GS and SMM shall be highlighted by a coloured notice on the outside of the front cover of the Bills of Quantities.

Notes on the Use of the GS and SMM

8. Part III of the SMM, "Rules for Preparing Bills of Quantities", gives general guidance on the procedures and principles to be adopted. In the interest of uniformity the SMM shall be strictly followed for the measurement of items it covers. Only where this is not practical or where the SMM does not cover the item required should any amendment or addition to the SMM be made. Amendments or additions to the SMM should be made in the form of a Particular Preamble which shall follow the General Preambles in the contract documents and shall be submitted to the D1 (or higher) level officer administering the contract for approval.

9. Where necessary, the GS should be supplemented by a Particular Specification. Compatibility of all changes must be ensured by the department preparing the contract documents. If changes are considered necessary, the revised items together with the reasons for the changes shall be submitted to the D1 (or higher) level officer administering the contract for approval. It is essential to ensure that the Particular Specification does not alter or conflict with the General or Special Conditions of Contract. Any amendment to the General Conditions of Contract must be dealt with by a Special Condition of Contract, which must be grouped together in a separate section of the contract documents, entitled "Special Conditions of Contract".

10. Specific queries regarding the interpretation of the SMM should be directed to the departmental representative on the Steering Group to Monitor the Use of the SMM. The Standards Unit of the Civil Engineering Department has been responsible for the overall co-ordination of the GS and SMM, and their final editing and production.

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