

cc KYC → Wei Sun

 **土木工程拓展署**
**CEDD Civil Engineering and
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25 September 2007

Distribution

Dear Sir,

Consultative Group on Blasting Regulation – 8th Meeting

Further to my e-mail to you on 10.9.2007, I wish to remind you to attend the 8th meeting of the Consultative Group. Details are as follow:

Date & Time: Monday, 8 October 2007, 2:00 p.m.

Venue: Room 1506, 15/F, Civil Engineering and Development Building
101, Princess Margaret Road, Homantin, Kowloon

Please find enclosed a copy of the following documents for your reference:

- (i) agenda for the 8th Consultative Group meeting,
- (ii) minutes of the previous (7th) Consultative Group meeting, and
- (iii) minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Subgroup on Qualification and Training for Shotfirer (Draft).

Yours faithfully,



(Lok S Pang)

Secretary, Consultative Group
on Blasting Regulation

Encls.

Items (i) to (iii) above

Lok/KFM/Con Gr/Letter 8th Meeting



Distribution List:

Mr. Justin TAYLOR

Association of Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Specialists
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Consultative Group on Blasting Regulation – 8th Meeting

Date: Monday, 8 October, 2007

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Venue: Room 1506, Civil Engineering and Development Building
15/F, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Homantin, Kowloon

Agenda (Draft):

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising from the last meeting
3. A.O.B.

Consultative Group on Blasting Regulation

Minutes of the 7th Meeting

Date and Time: Tuesday, 10.7.2007, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 1506, 15/F CED Building, Homantin, Kowloon

Present:

Ir. John B MASSEY	Deputy Head (Mainland)	Chairman
Ir. Dr. Richard P L PANG	Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Mainland East	CGE/ME
Ir. Vincent S H TSE	Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Mines	CGE/Mines
Ir. K F MAN	Senior Geotechnical Engineer/Mines 1	SGE/M1
Ir. Hugh H H CHOY	Senior Geotechnical Engineer/Mines 2	SGE/M2
Ir. Dr. Lok S PANG	Geotechnical Engineer/Mines 1	Secretary
Ir. Y W CHAN	Geotechnical Engineer/Mines 2	GE/M2
Mr. S Y LAM	Atg. Chief Explosives Officer	Atg. CExpO

Ir. Ray BREWSTER	Hong Kong Construction Association
Mr. John BUTCHART	Brandrill Engineering (HK) Ltd
Mr. Archie CHEUNG	Dyno Nobel Hong Kong Limited
Ir. David T W LAU	Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (Civil Division)
Mr. Randolph LAW	Hong Kong Society of Blasting Engineering and Explosives Technology
Mr. Nick LEWIS	Institute of Quarrying (Hong Kong Branch)
Ir. James RICKARD	Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (Hong Kong Branch)

Absent with apology:

Ir. Joseph Y C LO	Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (Geotechnical Division)
Mr. Weyman NGAI	Orica Hong Kong Limited
Ir. David SALISBURY	Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong
Ir. Justin TAYLOR	Association of Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Specialists (Hong Kong)

Minutes of Meeting

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1. Welcoming

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John Butchart into the Consultative Group. He is the local supplier of Austin explosives products, and is an experienced shotfirer and blasting engineer in Hong Kong.

2. Minutes of last meeting held on 1.9.2006

The minutes of last meeting were agreed without amendment.

3. Matters Arising3.1 Meeting with EPD

The Chairman said that a meeting with Dr. John Wrigley of EPD was still being arranged and issues of concern to members would be raised, e.g. risk assessment on transport of explosives, and exclusion of blasting at an early stage of a project.

Chairman

3.2 Information on Legislation Amendment Under Dangerous Goods Ordinance

(a) SGE/M1 reported that the date for passing the draft regulations to LegCo had been further postponed to late 2007. The Chairman said that the members would be informed once the regulations were passed, and there would be a grace period of two years for compliance. Members noted that imported explosives transported by air or sea would have already complied with the UN classification, packing and labelling and standards.

(b) SGE/M1 would include the website addresses for UN explosives classification and HSE standards for explosives storage in the minutes of meeting. (Post-meeting note: SGE/M1 gave two website addresses: <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm> and <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20051082.htm>)

SGE/M1

(c) Members agreed to remove this item from the regular agenda for future meetings until there is some concrete progress to report, at which time Mines will raise it for Members' information.

Secretary

3.3 Air Overpressure (AOP) Limit

The Secretary reported that the Working Subgroup on AOP was formed and had its first meeting on 3.5.2007. Draft minutes of this first meeting had been send to members. The Chairman proposed, and members agreed, that advice from an overseas expert consultant should be sought.

AOP
Working
Subgroup3.4 Protective Measures (PM) for Opencast Blasting Works

(a) Secretary reported that the Working Subgroup on PM for Opencast Blasting Works was formed and had its first meeting on 10.5.2007. Draft minutes of this first meeting had been sent to members. Members of the Working Subgroup had diverging views on the terminology, e.g. flyrock and protective measures, and on the rationale for provision of protection against flyrock hazard.

(b) Members agreed that Secretary should draft definition for key terms: e.g. flyrock, protective measures and preventive measures for members' comment, as a starting point.

Secretary

3.5 Storage and Firing Test

(a) The Chairman said that the need for storage and firing tests should be reviewed as weather and storage conditions in Hong Kong were not

necessarily more varied or stringent than other parts of the world where explosives were manufactured or stored. Ir. Ray Brewster's view was that the test was unnecessary, while the Secretary's view was that improvements as given in the recently issued Mines Division Guidance Note on shortening the lead time to three months for carrying out storage and firing test was reasonable for the time being.

- (b) The Chairman further queried whether there was a need to test explosives products again if they had been subjected to quality and packaging tests overseas, when testing data or certification were made available. The Chairman requested SGE/M2 to review the need for storage tests in the light of the points made.

SGE/M2

3.6 Assessment of Allowable Blasting Vibration Limits for Soil Slopes

- (a) CGE/ME tabled Progress Report No. 1 (see Doc. M7_1 attached) on the work of the Task Group on the study of effects of blasting vibrations on soil slopes. He informed members of the planned research work at the Ocean Park Redevelopment Project to monitor blast-induced vibrations in order to gain a better understanding of the attenuation of blasting waves, with a view to improve future prediction of blasting vibrations.
- (b) The Chairman said that interested persons would be welcome to join the Task Group.
- (c) Members noted that factors such as type of explosives, energy equivalence and de-coupling effect would be considered in the research work.
- (d) The Chairman made the point that, while the particular focus of the Task Group was on the effect of blasting vibrations on soil slopes, good quality data from the monitoring would have much broader relevance to the whole subject of the generation and propagation of blasting induced vibrations generally, and that this should be kept in view.

All

4. Shotfirer's Qualification, Training Practice and Liabilities

- 4.1 The Chairman said that a Working Subgroup on Qualifications and Training for Shotfirer was formed, but had not yet had its first meeting because of the difficulty in arranging for a convenient meeting date.
- 4.2 Regarding the Mine Blasting Certificate (MBC) examination syllabus, Atg. CExpO advised that a MDPN on MBC application, which would include a syllabus, was under preparation. The target date for issuing the examination syllabus was October 2007. Members agreed that a draft syllabus should be sent to members of the Working Subgroup for comment.

Atg. CExpO

5. Mines Division's Information on the CEDD Website

- 5.1 The Secretary distributed hard copy of relevant CEDD web pages (see Doc. 7_2 attached) to members and explained how Mines Division's information could be found on the CEDD website. The Chairman commented that

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assistance should be sought from the CEDD computer services unit on how to make this information more prominent and easy for users to locate.

- 5.2 Members agreed that the word 'Mines' may not be self-explanatory to those not familiar with the existing HK legislation and that ways should be explored to facilitate searching of Mines Division's information on the CEDD website, e.g. addition of keyword search under "explosives" and/or "blasting". CGE/Mines

6. Explosives Stores

- 6.1 In response to the Chairman's request for bringing up priority issues as given in the HKCA's document on the "Recommendation for the Advancement of Safe and Efficient Blasting Practice in Hong Kong", Ir. Ray Brewster expressed concern on the difficulty in getting approval for different types of explosives stores, e.g. underground and portable stores. SGE/M1 reminded members of the requirements in the regulations that blasting explosives shall be stored in a Mode A Store, which should be a single storeyed detached structure. However, it was agreed that it is appropriate to review this general issue.

- 6.2 Ir. Ray Brewster undertook to prepare a discussion note on this issue for discussion at the next meeting. RB

7. Additional Topics for Future Discussion

The Chairman suggested topics for future discussion:

- waiting time for shotfirer to return to a misfire
- procedures for dealing with misfire

All

8. Date of Next Meeting

Members agreed to hold the next meeting in early September 2007.

All