



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS MALAYSIA

CIRCULAR NO. 1/2010

ADVISORY NOTE ON CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION

Construction supervision is necessary to ensure that the Works are constructed in accordance with the design and specification requirements and to safeguard the quality of the construction works. It is also important to ensure that the consulting engineer is available to adjust his designs to take into account site conditions and constraints that cannot be assessed during the design phase. ACEM therefore considers construction supervision to be an integral part of the design process and is a pre-requisite to ensure successful implementation of a project.

The importance of having the designer to supervise the construction works is underscored by statutory requirement which is to uphold the principle of public safety being the prime motivation. The Uniform Building By-laws also states that where any plan, drawing or calculation in relation to any building is required to be submitted by any qualified person, no erection or continuation of erection of that building shall take place unless that qualified person or any person duly authorised by him undertakes the supervision of the erection and the setting out, where applicable, of that building. In other words, this means that the submitting person shall supervise the construction of the Works.

ACEM, however, understands that there have been many instances where clients have taken the liberty of removing the role of construction supervision completely out from the scope of works of the consulting engineer.

Under these circumstances where the Client has decided to take out construction supervision from the scope of works of the consulting engineer, members are advised to take the following actions:

- (i) To properly discharge themselves from the project based on the terms of their services agreement and to issue the Letter of Release if required.
- (ii) Advise the client that any engineer taking over the construction supervision must assume full responsibility for the Works and to also sign-off the Form Gs/F to obtain Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC) or Certificate of Practical Completion as the case maybe.
- (iii) Inform the local authorities that they are no longer involved with the project and are no longer the submitting person for the project.



- (iv) For government projects which do not require submission to local authorities and issuance of CCC, an official discharge letter to the government must be issued in order to give a clear demarcation of the Consultant's responsibility confining it solely to design responsibility up to tender stage only.

These measures will, to some extent, serve to protect the interest of the consulting engineer who may otherwise be found to be responsible and liable for works he did not supervise or changes in design that he is not aware of.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wong Loo Min', is positioned above the printed name.

Ir. Wong Loo Min

President

Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia

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Dated: 10 August 2010