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CIRCULAR ON SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (TUNNELLING) FOR LTA TUNNELLING PROJECTS

Who should know

Civil Consultants, Professional Institutions/Societies, Professional Engineers

- 1 In order to raise the standard of the professionals involved in tunnelling projects in Singapore, especially in the area of supervision, LTA together with PUB and JTC have been in discussions with PEB and BCA to create a new Specialist Professional Engineer (SPE) for tunneling works. This will allow Singapore professional engineers who are experienced in tunnelling works to be formally recognised as a SPE(Tunnelling), thereby uplifting the professional status of our local professional engineers.
- 2 PEB has made amendment to the Professional Engineers Act (Chapter 253) on 24th September 2020 to allow practicing engineers with relevant qualifications and experiences to seek registration as SPE(Tunnelling).
- 3 This circular is to inform the industry that Qualified Persons for Supervision, QP(S), involved in the supervision of bored tunnelling and/or complex mining works in LTA projects, will require to be SPE(Tunnelling) registered, for contracts awarded with effect from 1st January 2023.
- 4 Applicants of SPE(Tunnelling) shall refer to the **Appendix A** Guidelines to Sit for Specialist Registration Examination and Register as Specialist Professional Engineer in the Specialized Branch of Tunnelling Engineering (Oct 2020).
- 5 To facilitate for application of SPE(Tunnelling), LTA together with SIT have formulated a Certification Course in Tunnel Engineering, which will be conducted and certified by SIT^{LEARN}. The Certificate obtained from the Certification Course in Tunnel Engineering is endorsed by PEB for SPE(Tunnelling) applications.
- 6 Applicants through Set (A)(ii)(B) would be required to pass the examination of the Certification Course in Tunnel Engineering. Applicants may choose to attend any modules of the Certification Course in Tunnel Engineering in preparation for the exam.

- 7 Applicants through Set (B) would be required to attend and pass the Certification Course in Tunnel Engineering.
- 8 The first of 3 modules of the Certification Course in Tunnel Engineering — TE1 Geology of Singapore and Tunnel Design — will start on 2nd March 2021.
- 9 The Course had been approved by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), where eligible participants would benefit from fees subsidies. For details on the course, reference shall be made to the *SITLEARN* website.
- 10 I would appreciate it if you could bring the contents of this circular to your members' attention and encourage your eligible members to seek registration as SPE(Tunnelling).

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



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GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER IN TUNNELLING ENGINEERING

Introduction

1. A PE in civil engineering may apply to be registered as a specialist professional engineer in tunnelling engineering if he has a valid practicing certificate and meets one of the following sets of conditions as specified in the Fourth Schedule of the PE Rules as follows:

Set (A)

- (i) the applicant has not less than 5 years (in aggregate) of such experience in tunnelling design and construction, with at least one year in each component (whether in Singapore or elsewhere), as may be acceptable to the Board, of which at least 3 years of that experience was obtained whilst practising as a registered professional engineer in Singapore;
- (ii) the applicant —
 - (A) has a post-graduate engineering degree (such as M.Sc or PhD) majoring in tunnel engineering or mining engineering from a university set out in the Schedule to the Professional Engineers (Approved Qualifications) Notification 2009 or such other qualifications as may be acceptable to the Board; or
 - (B) has a post-graduate engineering degree (such as M.Sc or PhD) majoring in geotechnical engineering from a university set out in the Schedule to the Professional Engineers (Approved Qualifications) Notification 2009 or such other qualifications as may be acceptable to the Board, and has passed an examination on tunnel engineering specified by the Board; and
- (iii) the applicant has passed a specialist registration examination on tunnel engineering conducted by the Board;

Set (B)

- (i) the applicant has not less than 8 years (in aggregate) of such experience in tunnelling design and construction, with at least one year in each component (whether in Singapore or elsewhere), as may be acceptable to the Board, of which at least 3 years of that experience was obtained whilst practising as a registered professional engineer in Singapore;
- (ii) the applicant has successfully completed a training course in tunnel engineering as specified by the Board; and
- (iii) the applicant has passed a specialist registration examination on tunnel engineering conducted by the Board;

Set (C)

- (i) the applicant has submitted the application within 12 months after 01 October 2020; and
- (ii) the applicant has, since obtaining any of the qualifications mentioned in section 15(1) of the Act, acquired at least 25 years of relevant practical experience in engineering as may be acceptable to the Board, and at least 15 years (in aggregate) of such experience relating to tunnelling works, of which at least 2 years are in tunnelling design, and at least 5 years in tunnelling construction.

Examination

2. One of the requirements as mentioned in para 1 above is that a Set (A) or Set (B) applicant must sit for and pass a specialist registration examination on tunnel engineering conducted by the Board. The specialist registration examination on tunnel engineering conducted by the Board is an oral examination and will be conducted together with the professional interview for registration as specialist PE in tunnelling engineering in a single session. The syllabus for the examination is as specified in Annex A below.

Report

3. An application shall be accompanied by a report on practical experience that describe in particular the design and construction in tunnel engineering experience that the applicant has acquired. It should include the tasks that the applicant has been involved in, the levels of his responsibilities, the identification of special engineering problems encountered and the demonstration of the use of engineering knowledge, experience and judgment to resolve them etc. The Report shall be about 2,000 words and must not be a mere inventory of work done.
4. The report shall be typewritten and 5 copies shall be submitted (i.e. 1 original and 4 photostat copies). The report must be signed by the applicant himself/herself and verified by his/her employers or any registered Professional Engineer in Singapore. Verification by an employer should be accompanied by a stamp with name, designation and name of company. Verification by a professional engineer should be accompanied by the professional engineer's stamp.

Interview

5. The Board would require all Set (A), Set (B) or Set (C) applicant to undergo an interview. The interview would cover the following:
 - a) to determine the type and duration of practical experience in tunnel engineering;
 - b) to assess the basic understanding, and scope and depth of the applicant's practical experience in tunnel engineering, in particular, to establish the level of responsibility – i.e. whether the applicant's nature of work is at subordinate level or at the level of making technical decisions and to establish whether his experience is sufficient to enable him to act and take technical decisions independently.
6. In general, an applicant would be assessed based on his practical experience as illustrated in his report. These should cover various major tunnel engineering areas, such as:
 - a) Local engineering geology and geotechnical engineering, and its application in tunnelling. (Core area)
 - b) Design and construction of bored tunnelling works (more than 6m in size) and/or complex mining works. (Core area)
 - c) Tunnelling instrumentation monitoring and interpretation including tunnelling Key Performance Indicators and other related engineering parameters. (Core area)
 - d) Impact assessment of adjacent buildings, structures and underground utilities. (Core area)
 - e) Ground improvement for bored and mined tunnelling works
 - f) Construction safety, fire safety, ventilation and environmental control during tunnelling
 - g) Working in compressed air and related regulations
7. The applicant could be queried on his involvement in one or more phases of a project such as planning, design & analysis, construction, and operation & maintenance in relation to the tunneling aspects.

8. An applicant is required to demonstrate that he has substantial practical experience and knowledge as to be competent in the four major core tunnelling areas mentioned above. Where applicable, consideration could be given to his competence in the other tunnelling areas. In addition, the conduct, attitude and professionalism that the applicant displays during the interview would also be considered.
9. When registering a professional engineer in the specialised branch of tunnelling engineering, the Board may impose such conditions as it thinks fit.

Fees

10. The fees for an application by a Set (A) or Set (B) applicant to sit for the specialist registration examination in the branch of tunnel engineering is \$450. The fees for an application by a Set (A), Set (B) or Set (C) applicant to register as a specialist professional engineer in tunnelling engineering is \$300.

Submission

11. An application to sit for the specialist registration examination and/or register as specialist professional engineer in the branch of tunnelling engineering shall be submitted in person and made on prescribed forms issued by the Professional Engineers Board, Singapore. The application must be legibly written in ink or type-written and 5 copies shall be submitted.

SYLLABUS FOR SPECIALIST REGISTRATION EXAMINATION IN TUNNEL ENGINEERING

Legislations and Guidelines Related to Tunnel Engineering

1. Building Control Act
2. Workplace Safety and Health Act
3. Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations
4. Workplace Safety and Health (Risk Management) Regulations

Codes and Standards Related to Tunnel Engineering

The applicant shall have an in-depth understanding of the relevant local and international codes and standards including but not limited to the following:

1. BS 6164: Code of Practice for Health and Safety in Tunnelling in the Construction Industry
2. BS EN 16191: Tunnelling Machinery - Safety Requirements
3. BS EN 12110: Tunnelling Machines – Air Locks – Safety requirements
4. BS EN 1889-2: Machines for underground mines, Mobile machines working Underground, Safety, Rail locomotives

Other Relevant Areas in Tunnel Engineering

1. Other than possessing knowledge in the relevant prevailing codes and standards above, candidates applying to be a specialist professional engineer in tunnelling engineering are required to possess knowledge in the fundamental principles of the following aspects of tunnel engineering:
 - a) Local engineering geology and geotechnical engineering and its application in tunnelling.
 - b) Design and construction of bored tunnelling works (more than 6m in size) and/or complex mining works.
 - c) Tunnelling instrumentation monitoring and interpretation including tunnelling Key Performance Indicators and other related engineering parameters.
 - d) Impact assessment of adjacent buildings, structures and underground utilities.

Local Engineering Geology and Geotechnical Engineering

The applicant shall be knowledgeable in the following areas:

1. Fundamentals of geology and its application in tunnelling
2. Rock and soil mechanics and its application in tunnelling
3. Rock mass classification and its application in tunnelling
4. Site investigation and ground characterization and its application in tunnelling

Design and Construction of Bored Tunnelling Works

The applicant shall be knowledgeable in the following areas:

1. Segmental lining design
2. Face pressure calculation
3. Excavation methods: mechanised tunnelling
4. Understanding of Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM)
5. Logistic and supply chain for mechanised tunnelling
6. Rings selection, quality of segments, casting, erection, handling tight radius
7. Construction safety, fire safety, ventilation and environmental control during tunnelling
8. Interpretation of Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) parameters during construction
9. Working in compressed air and related regulations
10. Ground Improvement for bored tunnelling works
11. Theory and application of Excavation Management System for slurry and EPB TBM
12. Slurry Treatment Plant (STP) design of separation capacity
13. Slurry function, slurry properties and testing, slurry quality control for Slurry TBM
14. Soil Conditioning for EPB TBM

Design and Construction of Complex Mining Works

The applicant shall be knowledgeable in the following areas:

1. Sprayed concrete lining design
2. Cast in situ permanent Lining design
3. Review of mined tunnels design using numerical methods
4. Excavation methods: conventional tunnelling
5. Cavern design and construction, drill and blast

6. Ground Improvement for mining works

Tunnelling Instrumentation Monitoring and Interpretation Including Tunnelling Key Performance Indicators and Other Related Engineering Parameters

The applicant shall be knowledgeable in the following areas:

1. Understanding of Instrumentation & Monitoring for mechanised and conventional tunnelling, example:
 - a) Common types of instruments and how they work
 - b) Definition of influence zone
 - c) Ground settlement
 - d) Subsurface monitoring
 - e) Utilities monitoring
 - f) Building / Infrastructure monitoring
2. Understanding special monitoring scenario, example:
 - a) Adjacent tunnels
 - b) Monitoring during TBM launching, including thrust frame monitoring
 - c) Monitoring during cutter head intervention
 - d) Monitoring for mined tunnels construction
3. Understanding tunnelling Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and other related engineering parameters

Impact Assessment of Adjacent Buildings, Structures and Underground Utilities

The applicant shall be knowledgeable in the following areas:

1. Estimation of ground settlements; estimation of adjacent structure movements
2. Building/structure types and methodologies to assess impact to adjacent buildings/structures
3. Establishing allowable buildings/structures limits
4. Groundwater control measures (dewatering and recharging) and other mitigation and contingency measures