

Dear Landscape Architects:

## **Delivery of Professional Standards of Services**

The enactment of Landscape Architects Registration Ordinance (LARO) and the establishment of Landscape Architects Registration Board (LARB) in 1997 were a milestone for our landscape architect profession in Hong Kong. Since 2003, landscape architects or 'RLAs' have been assigned with a responsibility to carry out Self-Certificate of Compliance (SCC) on completed landscape works under BD/ LandsD/ PlanD Joint Practice Note No. 3 (JPN3). Since 2007, we have been assigned with another one to carry out SCC on completed tree works under LandsD LAO PN 7/2007.

A landscape architect shall deliver professional standards of services with care and honesty at all time. When a landscape architect fails to do so, his/ her malpractice may affect the creditability and reputation of our entire profession. LARB's Inquiry Committee is empowered by LARO to summon any person to attend an inquiry and to hear, receive and examine evidence on oath. Where a landscape architect is found to have committed a disciplinary offence, he or she may be reprimanded and his/ her name may be removed from the register.

The following are examples to consider when conducting out a SCC:

### **1.0 General**

- 1.1 **Addressee of SCC** – It is the responsibility of a RLA to ensure that his/ her SCC is addressed to the correct authority or authorities in accordance with the latest version of relevant government practice notes.
- 1.2 **RLA Stamp** – A RLA must support his/ her signature on a SCC with his/ her personal stamp issued by LARB. The stamp shall be clearly printed onto the certificate with ink; electronic copy or photocopy is not acceptable. Any RLA who loses his/ her stamp should contact LARB immediately.
- 1.3 **Safety** – Regardless of the content of an approved landscape master plan/ landscape proposal or tree preservation scheme/ compensatory planting scheme that a SCC will be based on, a RLA should always ensure that works implemented onsite are safe for all users before issuing a SCC.

### **2.0 Relationship with other Statutory Submissions**

- 2.1 **Matching GBP approved by Building Authority** – Before carrying out a SCC, a RLA may check the approved landscape or tree submission against the latest approved GBP or record plan provided by the Authorized Person.

# LARB

Landscape   
Architects   
Registration   
Board   
H.K.   
  
  
  
香港

2.2 **Matching approval by Water Authority** – Water supply and usage in Hong Kong is strictly controlled by Water Authority under relevant Ordinance(s). An irrigation water point without legal water supply for irrigation purpose should not be accepted.

### 3.0 **Inspection of Works**

3.1 **Works to be inspected** – It is the responsibility of a RLA to ensure all required works are satisfactorily implemented in accordance with approved scheme before issuing a SCC:

- (i) For a SCC under JPN3 - both 'hard' and 'soft' landscape works (including tree preservation scheme) described in the approved landscape master plan or landscape proposal.
- (ii) For a SCC under LandsD LAO PN 7/2007 - 'the Tree Works' described in the approved tree preservation scheme and compensatory planting proposal.

A RLA may commit a disciplinary offence if his/ her SCC contains inaccurate, incomplete or outdated information.

3.2 **Planting quality** – A RLA who carries out a SCC should carefully inspect and ensure all required planting are of reasonable quality and are implemented properly in accordance with guidelines (e.g. guidelines available on Development Bureau's website).

3.3 **Additional planting** – Subject to his/ her client's agreement, a RLA may accept in his/ her SCC additional planting that does not adversely affect the approved scheme.

3.4 **Outdoor Play Area/ Fitness Station/ Ball Court** – A RLA who carries out a SCC should secure a copy of shop drawings and safety certificates from both the manufacturer and the installation contractor of an outdoor children play equipment, a fitness equipment or a ball court equipment.

The above points are not exhaustive and should not be mistaken as standards or guidelines for a SCC. A landscape architect should always exercise his/ her own professional judgement on a project-by-project basis. Your opinion is **valuable** to our profession, and if you have any, please contact us (email: [secretariat@larb-hk.org](mailto:secretariat@larb-hk.org)). If LARB receives extensive feedback on the subject, we may consider organising a discussion session with you to explore.

**Landscape Architects Registration Board**

**16 June 2015**

