

8. SITE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

8.1 Site Inspections

Site Inspections provide a direct means to trigger and enforce the specified environmental protection and pollution control measures. They shall be undertaken routinely by the ET Leader to inspect the construction activities in order to ensure that appropriate environmental protection and pollution control mitigation measures are properly implemented. With well defined pollution control and mitigation specifications and a well established site inspection, deficiency and action reporting system, the site inspection is one of the most effective tools to enforce the environmental protection requirements on the construction site.

The ET Leader is responsible for formulation of the environmental site inspection, deficiency and action reporting system, and for carrying out the site inspection works. He shall submit a proposal on the site inspection, deficiency and action reporting procedures within 21 days of the construction contract commencement to the contractor for agreement and to the ER for approval.

Regular site inspections shall be carried out at least once per week. The areas of inspection shall not be limited to the pollution control and mitigation measures within the site; but shall also include the environmental situation outside the site area which is likely to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the site activities. The ET Leader shall make reference to the following information when conducting the inspection:

- a) the EIA recommendations on environmental protection and pollution control mitigation measures;
- b) works progress and programme;
- c) individual works methodology proposals (which shall include proposals on associated pollution control measures);
- d) the contract specifications on environmental protection;
- e) the relevant environmental protection and pollution control laws; and
- f) previous site inspection results.

The contractor shall update the ET Leader with all relevant information in respect of the construction to facilitate him in carrying out the site inspections. The inspection results and associated recommendations on improvements to the environmental protection and pollution control works shall be submitted to the IC(E) and the contractor within 24 hours, for reference and, if appropriate, immediate action. The contractor shall follow the procedures and time-frame as stipulated in the environmental site inspection, deficiency and action reporting system, as defined in the Contract, to report on any remedial measures subsequent to the site inspections.

Ad hoc site inspections shall also be carried out if significant environmental problems are identified. Inspections may also be required subsequent to receipt of an environmental complaint, or as part of the investigation work, as specified in the Action Plan for environmental monitoring and audit.

8.2 Compliance with Legal and Contractual Requirements

There are contractual environmental protection and pollution control requirements as well as environmental protection and pollution control laws in Hong Kong with which the construction activities shall comply.

In order that the works are in compliance with the contractual requirements, all the works method statements submitted by the contractor to the ER for approval shall also be sent to the ET Leader for vetting to see whether sufficient environmental protection and pollution control measures have been included.

The ET Leader shall also review the progress and programme of the works to check that relevant environmental laws have not been violated, and that any foreseeable potential for violating the laws can be prevented.

The contractor shall regularly copy relevant documents to the ET Leader so that the checking work can be carried out. The document shall at least include the updated Work Progress Reports, the updated Works Programme, the application letters for different license/permits under the environmental protection laws, and all the valid license/permit. The site diary shall also be available for the ET Leader's inspection upon his request.

After reviewing the document, the ET Leader shall advise the contractor, and through him the ER, of any non-compliance with the contractual and legislative requirements on environmental protection and pollution control for them to take follow-up actions. If the ET Leader's review concludes that the current status on license/permit application and any environmental protection and pollution control preparation works may not cope with the works programme or may result in potential violation of environmental protection and pollution control requirements by the works in due course, he shall advise the contractor and, through him the ER, accordingly.

Upon receipt of the advice, the contractor shall undertake immediate action to remedy the situation. The ER shall follow up to ensure that appropriate action has been taken by the contractor in order that the environmental protection and pollution control requirements are fulfilled.

8.3 Environmental Complaints

Complaints shall be referred to the ET Leader to carry out the complaint investigation procedures. The ET Leader shall undertake the following procedures upon receipt of a complaint:

- a) log complaint and date of receipt onto the complaint database and inform the IC(E) immediately;

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- b) investigate the complaint to determine its validity, and to assess whether the source of the problem is due to work construction activities;
 - c) if a complaint is valid and due to the Works, identify mitigation measures;
 - d) if mitigation measures are required, advise the contractor accordingly;
 - e) review the contractor's response to the identified mitigation measures, and the updated situation;
 - f) if the complaint is transferred from EPD, submit an interim report to EPD on the status of the complaint investigation and follow-up action within the time frame assigned by EPD;
 - g) undertake additional monitoring and audit to verify the situation if necessary, and review activities to seek to ensure that the reason for any valid complaint does not recur;
 - h) report the investigation results and the subsequent actions to the source of complaint so that they can respond to the complainant (If the source of the complaint is EPD, the results shall be reported within the time frame assigned by EPD); and
 - i) record the complaint, investigation, the subsequent actions and results in the monthly EM&A reports.

During the complaint investigation work, the contractor shall cooperate with the ET Leader in providing all the necessary information and assistance for completion of the investigation. If mitigation measures are identified in the investigation, the contractor shall promptly carry out the mitigation. The ER shall ensure that the measures have been carried out by the contractor.

A flow chart of the complaint response procedures is shown in *Figure 8.1*.