



建築署

Architectural Services Department

## Potential Adoption of Products with Certificates of Conformity in Contracts of Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)

### What is Product Certification?

Product Certification ensures a high level of quality assurance through upstream monitoring. The product is controlled at source in a manufacturing plant starting from initial prototype testing, technical inspection of the manufacturing process, auditing of the quality system, approval of the product and subsequent surveillance audit testing of products sampled from the factory and/or market, etc. In order to enhance the credibility of the product certification, manufacturers of the product very often have to seek third party certification body to perform the independent certification audit. This third party product certification scheme is featured with a certification mark.

*[Extracted from the paper on “Product Certification of Heat Soaked Tempered Glass” by Ir CK Cheung of HKAS in 2006]*

### Examples of Product Certification for Construction Materials

Product Conformity Certification Schemes (PCCS) for some construction materials have been developed in Hong Kong. The “Quality Scheme for Production and Supply for Concrete” (QSPSC) is the first scheme developed in the early 1990’s. After almost 20 years of implementation, the value of the scheme in enhancing the quality of ready mix concrete is well recognised. It is stipulated in the General Specification for Building 2012 Edition (to be superseded by 2017 Edition with effective from 1 Oct 2017) adopted for ArchSD contracts that structural concrete shall come from a supplier registered under QSPSC.

An overseas example is the requirement for timber from a responsibly managed source certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, or other similar certifications, which has also been stipulated in the General Specification. The underlying principle for this overseas certification system is the same: upstream quality assurance.

Other product conformity certification schemes developed in Hong Kong as shown in **Table 1** have also been launched in recent years. Schemes for some other building materials are being developed.

## **Operation of Product Conformity Certification Schemes (PCCS)**

The supplier/manufacturer is required to operate a quality system in compliance with ISO 9001 and the regulations of a particular Scheme. Upon receipt of an application, the **accredited Certification Body** will assess the quality and technical documentations, and conduct on-site assessment of the quality system management office and manufacturing plant of the applicant. After successful certification to confirm that a product of a given supplier satisfies the requirements of a specified certification scheme, surveillance assessment and recertification assessment will be carried out by the accredited certification body according to the regulations of the Scheme.

## **Advantages of Product Certification**

Product Certification provides the following advantages:

- It is an independent assurance that the product is manufactured under an effective system of testing, supervision and control
- Purchasers of the products may not be required to carry out further tests, as the products are already certified to be in compliance with the standards
- Certified products provide the user with an assurance for safety and reliability
- Certified products enjoy the benefits of protection against competition from substandard products and misrepresentation
- The product certification mark enhances the reputation of manufacturer and thus extends its marketing capability
- Improved efficiency in production and reduced wastage and rejects.

*[Extracted from the paper on “Product Certification of Heat Soaked Tempered Glass” by Ir CK Cheung of HKAS in 2006]*

## **Adoption of Products with Certificates of Conformity in ArchSD Contracts**

Adoption of products with Certificates of Conformity in ArchSD contracts is being actively considered. PCCS that enhance public safety and health will be given priorities. The requirements for certification under the PCCS-TA for “Tile Adhesives” and the PCCS-RM for “Repair Mortars” had been applied as pilot use in some ArchSD tenders since 2013 and 2015 respectively. PCCS for Cement Products, Fire Protection Products, Aluminium Window and Frictional Hinges, Heat-soaked Tempered Glass, Ceramic Tiles, Mesh Reinforcement, Drainage uPVC Pipe and Fitting, and Close-coupled Water Closet Suites are potential products for future consideration where applicable. The ultimate objective is assurance of public safety and health through adopting PCCS.

## **Enquiry**

For general enquiries on Product Conformity Certification Schemes (PCCS) for construction materials and products in Hong Kong, you may contact HK Accreditation Service (HKAS). Contact information can be viewed at the following website of the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS) under HKAS: <http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/hkcas/about.htm>

For general enquiries related to construction materials, you may contact our Technical Secretary/2, at telephone number: 2286 3490 or e-mail: [ts2@archsd.gov.hk](mailto:ts2@archsd.gov.hk)

For general enquiries on adoption of construction materials listed under Product Conformity Certification Schemes (PCCS) in ArchSD contracts, you may contact our Senior Building Services Engineer 1/Central Management Division 2, at telephone number: 2154 3134 or e-mail: [sbse1.cmd2@archsd.gov.hk](mailto:sbse1.cmd2@archsd.gov.hk)

Other information on Product Certification is available at the following websites:

- (a) HKAS website - List of Certification Bodies (CB) accredited for providing certification service and their contact details:

[http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/common/accrorg/cb\\_svc\\_en.pdf](http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/common/accrorg/cb_svc_en.pdf)

- (b) HKAS website - Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLA) for Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme:

<http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/agreement.htm>

- (c) Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) - Product Certification for Construction Materials:

[http://www.hkctc.gov.hk/en/pst\\_construction\\_materials\\_c.html](http://www.hkctc.gov.hk/en/pst_construction_materials_c.html)

- (d) Hong Kong Housing Authority - Construction Product Certification:

<http://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/en/business-partnerships/resources/construction-product-certification/index.html>

- (e) Architectural Services Department:

<http://www.archsd.gov.hk/en/consultants-contractors/product-conformity-certification-schemes.aspx>

**Table 1 – Examples of Local Product Certification Schemes for Construction Materials\***

Quality Scheme (QS)/ Product Conformity Certification Scheme (PCCS)	Scheme Owner	Copy of Scheme is available from* :
Quality Scheme for the Production and Supply of Concrete (QSPSC™)	Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA)	Can be purchased online at HKQAA website : <a href="http://www.hkqaa.org/en_pub_standards.php?catid=1">http://www.hkqaa.org/en_pub_standards.php?catid=1</a>
PCCS for Cement Products (PCCS-CP)	Hong Kong Concrete Institute (HKCI)	Can be purchased from HKCI :  The Secretariat Hong Kong Concrete Institute P.O. Box 79077, Mongkok Post Office, Mongkok, Kowloon Tel: (852) 2789 2389 Fax: (852) 2789 2390 Website : <a href="http://www.hongkongci.org/publication/">http://www.hongkongci.org/publication/</a>
PCCS for Tile Adhesives (PCCS-TA)		
PCCS for Repair Mortar (PCCS-RM)		
PCCS for Ceramic Tiles (PCCS-CT)		
PCCS for Mesh Reinforcements (PCCS-MR)		
PCCS for Aggregates for Concrete (PCCS-AC)		
Quality Scheme for Standard Sands (QS/SS)	Castco Certification Services Ltd (CCSL)	Can be purchased from CCSL :  Tel : (852) 2597 8333 Fax : (852) 2597 8399 Website: <a href="http://www.castco.com.hk/services/cert_product.aspx">http://www.castco.com.hk/services/cert_product.aspx</a>
Quality Scheme for Replacement Sands (QS/RS)		
PCCS for Passive Fire Protection Products (PCCS-PFPP)	Hong Kong Institute of Steel Construction (HKISC)	Can be purchased/ downloaded from HKISC :  Website : <a href="http://www.hkisc.org/index.html">http://www.hkisc.org/index.html</a>
PCCS for Aluminum Window (PCCS-AW)		
PCCS for Frictional Hinges (PCCS-FH)		
PCCS for Heat-soaked Tempered Glass (PCCS-TG)		
PCCS for uPVC Pipes and Fittings For Foul Water Drainage above Ground (PCCS-UP)	Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Ltd (HKIPD)	Can be purchased from HKIPD :  Email address : <a href="mailto:hkipdl@gmail.com">hkipdl@gmail.com</a> Tel: (852) 5110 8379 Fax: (852) 3585 3800 Website: <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/hkipdl/">https://sites.google.com/site/hkipdl/</a>
PCCS for Close-coupled Water Closet Suites (PCCS-WC)		

\*The information in this leaflet is compiled by the Architectural Services Department for general information only according to the information provided by other parties. Whilst we endeavour to ensure the accuracy of this general information, no warranty is given as to its accuracy, which may be changed at any time without prior notice. Please verify with the relevant parties if necessary.

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