

29 Mar 2016

Dear Lawrence,

Review of the Revised Draft Handbook on Tree Management (HTM)

The HKILA is pleased to provide comments on the revised draft Handbook on Tree Management (HTM) collected from members in Appendix A. The wide-range of comments address from the fundamental objective of the Handbook to detailed operation of tree management work. We recognize these comments are all relevant and should be seriously considered.

We would particularly like to emphasize the following:

1. The comments on unclear target audience and confusing content of the HTM included in HKILA's initial comments dated 26.10.2015 have largely not been adequately addressed in GLTM's response. Section 1.1 to 1.4 in Part 1 of the revised HTM state only the intention but matching solutions / implementation plans are not clearly and sufficiently provided elsewhere in the Handbook. We suggest the definition of various terms shall be more clearly defined, and separate guides to layman and "professionals" be promulgated so that specific objectives and contents could be addressed in individual guides.
2. The advocated tree management process has missed out accountability and registered landscape professionals. Registered Landscape Architects (RLAs) have been providing regulated and integrated services for tree works during construction phase, as well as post-construction maintenance and management. They are one key stakeholder group suitable and capable of providing quality and regulated arboricultural services. We recognize RLAs shall be held responsible for making submissions and coordinating arboricultural works to ensure professional accountability for the Owners and enhance quality of works. It is highly disappointed to learn that RLAs are not recognized as one of the proposed "Qualified Professionals" for tree management work in the Handbook.

3. The HTM shall also address the core issue that most of our urban trees suffer due to underground utility and road works. The coverage of guidance and emphasis of recommended management measures in the Handbook shall be carefully reviewed.

Should you require further information, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 2896 2833 or via email to president@hkila.com.

Yours sincerely,



Tak WONG
for and on behalf of
The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects