

TRAINING FOR
CLERKS OF WORKS

PREPARED BY:
AMINAH BINTI NOH

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
MR. HOE PENG KHOON

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DEPARTMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYING
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND SURVEYING
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SYNOPSIS

Advancement in technology in construction industry is progressing rapidly, where men's expertise has allowed the introduction of various materials and methods of construction. Unlike decades ago building clients are more sophisticated and demand good quality work. On his behalf, a competent person known as Clerk of Works is appointed for the purpose of close inspection, for better quality control. This will help him obtain better value for his investment and to reduce complications at a later date when the job is completed. An effective inspection and supervision would greatly reduce delays and disagreements which in turn save in time, money and reputations of all parties concerned.

In carrying out his duties, the Clerk of Works must be able to foresee problems ahead, able to understand and interpret drawings and specifications, wide knowledge of standard procedures and aware of special requirements as stipulated in the contract. Effective supervision and inspection can only be achieved if the person

incharge knows exactly all aspects of work being carried out on site. As an important tool for inspection and supervision, technical background knowledge is absolutely necessary. The knowledge can only be acquired through training.

The idea of this study is to highlight the importance of training for Clerks of Works before they are involved on job sites. Many Clerks of Works employed on site are without proper technical background training. Knowledge and expertise are acquired on site while carrying out his duties, by learning from senior members or self observation. The learning process would certainly take long time, thus is a waste of time. The whole industry would be more efficient if technical background training could be provided to the Clerks of Works and all parties involved in the project would gain in one way or another.

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| <u>CONTENTS</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Synopsis | i |
| Acknowledgement | ii |
| List of figures | vii |
| | |
| CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| 1.1 Defination of Clerk of Works | 3 |
| 1.2 Education and training | 3 |
| 1.3 Objectives | 4 |
| 1.4 Scope | 5 |
| 1.5 Methodology | 6 |
| | |
| CHAPTER 2 THE CLERK OF WORKS IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY | |
| 2.1 The necessity for the Clerk of Works on site | 8 |
| 2.2 The appointment of the Clerk of Works | 9 |
| 2.3 The requirements for appointment | 11 |
| 2.4 General duties of the Clerk of Works | 12 |
| 2.5 The authority of the Clerk of Works | 21 |
| | |
| CHAPTER 3 THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING | 28 |
| 3.1 The importance of training with regards to problems faced on site | 32 |
| 3.2 The importance of training with regards to the involvement in the constructional operations | 50 |