

INFORMATION ON RESIDENT PROJECT SURVEYORS IN MAJOR PROJECTS

(Updated 3 October 2022)

A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

1 Required Qualifications of Resident or Lead In-house Surveyors in Major Projects

In major projects awarded by Authorities such as LTA and HDB, the specification may include the Resident or Lead In-house Surveyors being a Technical Member (TechMem) of Singapore Institute of Surveyors & Valuers (SISV).

2 The Initiative & Rationale

There were significant cases of newly constructed features that encroach into State Land and private properties and which resulted in project delays and wasted resources in their resolutions. While most of these were resolved or rectified at a cost, they were counter-productive. The Land Surveyors Board was concerned that such issues would also increase as developments get denser and with little margin of error allowed.

In many instances, these were the results of inadequate understanding of local cadastral (boundary) practices and land legislations, if not inadequate formal training in land surveying. To address the situation, the Land Surveyors Board, in May 2014, advocated raising the competence level of contractors' in-house surveyors and major projects' resident surveyors.

In response, several land survey representatives from the public sector and the SISV deliberated on the implementation. The representatives recommended to LSB the Technical Membership of SISV (i.e. TechMem SISV) as the required qualification.

3 Applied Definitions

Major Project: A project with contract value of \$50 million or more and involves land surveying

Resident Project Surveyor: The surveyor on the specific project site full time.
(RPS) (The previous title was Resident Surveyor)

Lead In-house Surveyor: For a project with more than one surveyor, the surveyor in-charge is the lead surveyor, and also being full time on the specific project site.

TechMem SISV: A Technical Member in Land Surveying of Singapore Institute of Surveyors & Valuer, as listed in the membership list.

4 The Registry

The register for all classes of membership, including Technical Membership, in Land Surveying, Singapore Institute of Surveyors & Valuers is maintained by the Secretariat of SISV. All current members, including Technical Members, are listed in the Institute's website (<http://www.sisv.org.sg/ls-find-individual-member.aspx>)

5 **Contacts for Enquiry**

For general enquiry and clarification, please contact the Secretariat of SISV.

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B FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 Does the requirement for TechSISV apply to all public sectors' major projects?

To date, LTA and HDB have implemented the requirement for major projects with contract value of \$50 million or more. However, it is the individual authority's prerogative to apply the same requirement to projects of lesser contract value as it deems fit.

2 Can a TechMem SISV be the Resident Project Surveyor (RPS) or Lead In-house Surveyor of more than one project?

No. The Land Surveyors Board has ruled that a RPS can only be full-time on-site in one project as he is resident there. The rules for Lead in-house Surveyor is similar to RPS.

3 What are the qualifications required for a Resident Project Surveyor?

The required basic qualifications are:

- (a) Being a Technical Member of Land Surveying, Singapore Institute of Surveyors & Valuers (TechMem SISV)
- (b) The number of years of experience as stipulated in the contract for the specific project
- (c) Any other requirements that may be included in the contract for the specific project

4 How can I apply to be a Technical Member of SISV?

If you have the required qualifications below, you may download the application form (<http://www.sisv.org.sg/doc/Membership/MembershipApplForm.pdf>). You can also contact the secretariat for assistance.

You may submit the completed application form to SISV by post (attention to Ms Manisah), through a Member nominating your Technical Membership or by email at ls@sisv.org.sg.

5 What are the required academic qualifications for Technical Membership?

The accepted academic qualifications are:

- (a) Diploma in Land Surveying, Singapore Polytechnic
 - *(This course has been discontinued since the early 1980s)*
- (b) Diploma in Geospatial Information & Technology, BCA Academy

6 Tell me more about this Diploma in Geospatial Information & Technology course?

This is a 3-year part-time programme with 2 semesters covering 38 weeks per year. The pre-requisites are the minimum of GCE 'O' level or any Nitec from ITE. Applicants with 5 good GCE 'N' Level passes will also be considered. Each week will involve 2 evenings of 3-hour lectures plus practical sessions on Saturdays or 2 to 3 evenings of 3-hour lectures.

For more details: <https://www.bcaa.edu.sg/what-we-offer/academic-programmes?CourseId=3f4525c2-3230-6ef1-b0a0-ff0000a28c6c>

- 7 What is the frequency of the Diploma in Geospatial Information & Technology course?**
The Diploma in Geospatial Information & Technology course is conducted by BCA Academy once a year subject to sufficient number of applicants satisfying the enrolment pre-requisites. There is also a maximum class size.
- 8 I have a degree/diploma in Land Surveying (or Geomatics/Spatial Science) from a foreign country, do I qualify?**
If the syllabus covers adequately the main stream of Land Surveying, it is generally accepted subject to your passing the bridging courses on essential local content subjects. The acceptance of the academic qualification shall be assessed by an academic panel in SISV.
- 9 What are the bridging courses currently required and their durations?**
Currently, there are two essential bridging courses but the number may change according to needs. The two current bridging courses are:
- (a) Cadastral I – Basic Cadastral Procedures and Land Administration in Singapore
 - For more details: <http://sisv.org.sg/ls-course-Cadastral-1.aspx>
 - (b) Underground Surveying
 - For more details: <http://www.sisv.org.sg/ls-course-underground-survey.aspx>
- Both courses are administered by SISV.
- 10 What is the frequency of the bridging courses?**
The courses are run subject to a minimum number of students being met. It is expected to be run once a year.
- 11 I have a non-Land Survey degree/diploma, do I qualify?**
No. Training in core Land Surveying subjects is essential. You are advised to go through the Diploma in Geospatial Information & Technology.
- 12 I don't have a Degree/Diploma in Land Surveying (or Geomatics/Spatial Science). Can I attend the bridging courses?**
Both courses have pre-requisites – especially on basic knowledge in land surveying. You can be admitted for the courses if you meet the respective pre-requisites. However, having passed both bridging courses will not qualify you for TechMem SISV.

- 13 I have a degree in Land Surveying (or Geomatics/Spatial Science) from a university accredited by the Land Surveyors Board. Do I need to be a Technical Member of SISV to qualify for the position of Resident Project Surveyor?**

You qualify to be a Probationer Member of SISV but there is no rule to stop you from applying for TechSISV instead. However, it is reasonable to expect the relevant Authority to accept a Probationer Member to also qualify as a RPS. If approved to be a RPS, you will have to be full-time on-site in the specific project.

The same rules apply to Members and Fellows of SISV –registered surveyors or otherwise – that a RPS can only be in one specific project full-time.

- 14 I was not aware of the requirements for Technical Membership of SISV. Can I be exempted as I cannot attain the Diploma in Geospatial Information & Technology in time for my employment?**

The Land Surveyors Board has sent out the advisories to relevant authorities, government agencies and institutions (including SCAL) as early as May 2014. Land surveyors in agencies such as LTA have also disseminated the impending requirement in the projects they were involved in. Although the deadline for implementation was 1 January 2017, some agencies have already implemented the requirement much earlier. Adequate effort had been made to disseminate the information – including word of mouth at work sites among land surveyors.

SISV does not have the authority to grant exemptions nor waive entry requirements for Technical Membership. You are advised to apply for the Diploma in Geospatial Information & Technology course early due to the limited places for each batch.

- 15 Can my firm be exempted from having a RPS for our project if our main survey works were executed by a Registered Surveyor's firm?**

If the requirement for a RPS is specified in a contract between your firm and the relevant entity, then it is a contractual agreement made between the two entities. Your firm is presumed to have entered into the contract fully aware of the requirement for a RPS in the project.

Should your engaged Registered Surveyor agree to be the RPS for your project, he has to be full time on the project site.