ABSTRACT

As the local construction industry continues to face low productivity and a tight labour market with less available skilled workers, it has recognised the need for more buildable designs and construction methods to wean the industry off its reliance on low-skilled foreign workers and to improve the industry’s low productivity. The concept of buildability has been known to have the desirable benefits of completing a project within a shorter project duration and with superior quality, hence leading to better productivity, better end product and possibly lower cost in terms of a more cost efficient process to both the client and the contractor.

The government has announced recently that it would soon be implementing a policy requiring minimum buildability scores for building plan approval in order to reduce the dependence on foreign workers. This regulation would require companies to go for easy-to-build designs.

With this need for better buildable design, it is believed that the implementation of ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems would enable one to achieve a higher buildable score. The planned and systematic actions and procedures are expected to provide adequate confidence that the building will satisfy the given requirement for buildability.
This academic study examines the relevance and effectiveness of ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems implementation in achieving the desired buildability of a project. It proceeds further to analyse and discuss the effectiveness of the application in improving the buildability of a project in a case study and the problems encountered. A questionnaire survey is also conducted to substantiate the findings of the case study and to assess the impact of ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems on buildability. It concludes by establishing whether the ISO 9000 Quality Management System has any influence in improving the buildability of a project.