



Adjudication & Security of Payment

KEY SERVICES

- SOPO Payment Claim Preparation
- Responding to Payment Claims
- Adjudication Representation (Claimant/Respondent)
- Adjudicator Appointment
- Delay & Disruption Analysis for Adjudication
- Expert Reports & Witness Statements
- Enforcement of Adjudication Decisions
- Post-Adjudication Negotiation & Settlement



The Security of Payment Ordinance (Cap 652) — SOPO — came into force on 28 August 2025. It provides a statutory fast-track adjudication mechanism with binding decisions in tight timeframes. TCG has been at the forefront of SOPO, advising clients on compliance, strategy and representation.

SOPO Key Facts

- In force: 28 August 2025 (Cap 652)
- Decision timeframe: 55 working days
- Applies to: Construction contracts & supply agreements
- Nominated Bodies appoint the Adjudicator
- Decision is binding — 'pay now, argue later'

Preparing a Payment Claim

Under the SOPO, a payment claim must comply with specific statutory requirements. Deficiencies — inadequate particulars, missed deadlines, wrong form — can jeopardise the entire adjudication. We prepare compliant payment claims ensuring all requirements are met and entitlements clearly pleaded.

Responding to a Payment Claim

Employers and main contractors receiving a payment claim have strict deadlines for issuing a payment response. Missing or inadequately responding can result in the claimed sum becoming immediately payable. We assess incoming claims and draft robust, compliant payment responses.

Delay & Disruption in Adjudication

Many adjudications involve disputed delay matters. Our forensic planners prepare evidence-based delay analyses covering critical path, causation, concurrent delay and impact quantification — within the SOPO's compressed timeframes.

Adjudication Representation

We provide full adjudication management services — acting for either the claimant or respondent. This includes preparing the referral notice, compiling the full bundle of documents, drafting submissions in response to the adjudicator's questions, and managing the process to its conclusion. Our team combines quantity surveying, planning and legal expertise to present a compelling, cohesive case within the tight SOPO timetables.

Acting as Adjudicator

The Contracts Group has HKIAC-accredited adjudicators who are available for appointment as Adjudicator under the SOPO. Our adjudicators bring deep commercial and technical expertise to every appointment — providing impartial, reasoned and enforceable decisions within the statutory timetable.

Enforcement of Adjudication Decisions

An adjudicator's decision under the SOPO is binding and enforceable. Where a party refuses to comply, we assist with the enforcement process — advising on available remedies and working with our clients' legal advisers to secure payment of the adjudicated sum.

Post-Adjudication Settlement

An adjudication decision is not necessarily the end of the story. Many disputes are settled in the period between the decision and any final determination. We help clients use the adjudication outcome as leverage in post-adjudication settlement discussions, often achieving better overall commercial outcomes than the decision alone would provide.

Why Act Now?

The SOPO operates on tight, unforgiving timescales. Early preparation is critical — whether you are considering bringing a payment claim or anticipate receiving one. Contact The Contracts Group today to discuss your position and ensure you are SOPO-ready.

SOPO

In Force Since Aug 2025

55 WD

Max Adjudication Timeline

HKIAC

Accredited Adjudicators

Cap 652

Specialist Advisors

Contact us for a confidential, obligation-free consultation

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