INTRODUCTION

The construction industry plays a critical role in the Hong Kong economy. There are roughly 600-700 construction companies, ranging from small contractors with less than 10 employees to large companies hiring several thousand employees. In 1999, it accounted for 5.6% of the GDP and 40% of the gross domestic fixed capital formation, and employed 9.2% of the workforce. In recent years, environmental issues caused by or related to construction projects received more and more attention from society and the government (Hong Kong Government 1989, 1993, 1996, 1998). In April 2000, the Construction Industry Review Committee was appointed by the Hong Kong SAR government to comprehensively review the industry and to recommend improvement measures (Hong Kong Productive Council 2000). The industry was encouraged to comply with the regulatory requirements by making environmental performance a factor for being considered in tender evaluation and ongoing performance assessment. Under such a rigorous business environment, it is noted that the construction industry has introduced the environmental management as a managerial criterion, in addition to the three most important conventional performance criteria, quality, cost and time (Waste Reduction Committee 2000).