



水務署

Water Supplies Department

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Reference

(6) in WSD 3318/50 Pt.5 T/J(10)

23 December 2015

Distribution: To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorised Persons

Dear Sirs,

WSD Circular Letter No. 9/2015
Task Group on Implementation of New Improvement Measures for
Controlling Construction of Inside Service

In response to the lead in drinking water incident, the Water Authority (WA) has introduced a number of new improvement measures¹ for controlling construction of inside service. A Task Group (“TG”) has recently been commissioned under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director of Water Supplies with members from the plumbing industry, contractor associations, plumbing material suppliers, material laboratories etc. to, inter alia, facilitate the implementation of the new improvement measures. The terms of reference and membership of the TG are at the **Annex**. The first meeting of the TG was held in November 2015. Subsequent to the meeting, the arrangements as set out in the ensuing paragraphs are to be implemented. This Circular Letter supersedes any previous Circular Letter(s) on or relating to the relevant subject matters.

Transitional Arrangements for General Acceptance of Pipes and Fittings and Permission to Commence Plumbing Works

The following transitional arrangements shall take effect **up to and including 31 March 2016** -

¹ Some of the new improvement measures are also applicable to fire service.

- (a) In respect of pipes and fittings requiring compliance with BS 6920, the WA will accept pipes and fittings already tested to comply with BS 6920:2000 (supported with valid certificates or testing reports) and duly topped up by supplementary testing reports for compliance with BS 6920:2014 in respect of extraction of lead and boron.

- (b) The WA will consider granting permission for commencement of plumbing works to applications where some of the pipes and fittings reported at the Annex to Waterworks Form WWO 46 (WWO 46) have yet to obtain the general acceptance of the WA provided that the responsible licensed plumber (LP) has made on the Annex to WWO 46 the following undertaking-

Undertaking

I hereby undertake that I will obtain the Water Authority's general acceptance for the pipes and/or fittings which I marked with an asterisk "" against the descriptions of pipes and fittings on this Annex to WWO 46 and I will amend this Annex to WWO 46 accordingly and obtain the Water Authority's approval for the amendment before the final inspection of the plumbing works.*

For the avoidance of doubt, this transitional arrangement is only applicable to submission of WWO 46 Parts I and II seeking permission for commencement of plumbing works.

Amendment to Annex to WWO 46 (version 6/2012a)

For WWO 46 already submitted before 1 November 2015 (i.e. version 6/2012a of WWO 46 was used) and permission granted to commence the plumbing works, any subsequent amendment to the Annex to WWO 46 for submission to the WA can be made on the Annex and initialled by the LP and Authorised Person (AP). For the avoidance of doubt, the amendment by itself does not require a fresh submission of WWO 46 Parts I and II. However, this arrangement does not apply to amendment to Annex to WWO 46 (version 10/2015).

Change of LPs after submission of WWO 46

Where there is a change of LP, a fresh submission of WWO 46 Parts I and II (version 6/2012a for WWO 46 submitted before 1 November 2015, or version 10/2015 for WWO 46 submitted on or after 1 November 2015) duly signed by parties concerned including the Applicant, the AP and the new LP together with a copy of the previously approved WWO 46 and Annex are required to be made to the WA as soon as possible. For the avoidance of doubt, the change of LP by itself does not require submission of the plumbing proposal and the Annex to WWO 46 if there is no change to these submissions previously made to the WA.

Testing requirement of Thermoplastic Pipe

With effect **from and including 1 April 2016**, thermoplastic pipes are required to comply with the relevant British Standards listed on WSD's website for obtaining the WA's general acceptance. In particular, thermoplastic pipes for potable water supply shall also comply with the relevant edition of BS 6920 listed on WSD's website.

Appeal Mechanism under Point Penalty System

The following appeal mechanism under the Point Penalty System will operate as a trial for nine months starting from **1 January 2016**-

If an LP disagrees with a Waterworks Form WWO 1008 (WWO 1008) issued to the LP, the LP may submit an appeal to the Senior Engineer/Customer Services (District) (SE/CS(District)) concerned with substantiation within 14 days from the date of the WA's letter issuing the WWO 1008. The SE/CS(District) will investigate including conducting interviews with the LP as necessary and inform the LP of his decision. In case the issue of the WWO 1008 might trigger the procedure for suspension of the LP's licence, the procedure will not commence until a decision on the appeal has been made by the SE/CS(District) .

The mechanism will be reviewed after the trial has been put into operation for six months.

Hotline for Enquiry on Application for Water Supply

To further facilitate making enquiries about applications for water supply, hotlines have recently been set up in the respective Customer Services Districts. The hotlines together with an updated list of case officers responsible for application for water supply are uploaded on WSD's website at-

http://www.wsd.gov.hk/filemanager/en/share/pdf/list_case_officers.pdf

For enquiries about this Circular Letter, please contact our Engineer/Customer Services (Technical Support)1 at telephone no. 2829 5657.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

(LAM Ching Man)
for Water Authority

Encl.

(with Chinese translation)

c.c. Housing Department (Attn: SM/QM)
Buildings Department
Architectural Services Department
Fire Services Department
The Hong Kong Housing Society
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering - Hong Kong Council
Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Ltd
Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Ltd
Hong Kong Plumbing General Union
Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Ltd

The Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Ltd
Plumbing Technology Student Association
The Association of Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors of Hong Kong Ltd
Real Estate Development Association of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education
Construction Industry Council
The Hong Kong Construction Association, Ltd
Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Ltd
The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors Ltd
Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Ltd
Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Ltd
Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Company Ltd
Building Services Operation and Maintenance Executives Society
The Hong Kong Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Association Ltd

WSD 3318/15/81

Task Group
on Implementation of New Improvement Measures for
Controlling Construction of Inside Service

Terms of Reference

To steer, monitor and review the implementation of the new improvement measures for the control of the construction of inside service and fire service.

Membership

(A) Representatives from the plumbing industry, contractor associations, plumbing material suppliers, and material laboratories

Organization

- (1) Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Ltd
- (2) Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Ltd
- (3) Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Ltd
- (4) The Hong Kong Construction Association, Ltd
- (5) The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Ltd
- (6) Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Ltd
- (7) Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Ltd
- (8) Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Ltd
- (9) Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Ltd (2 representatives)
- (10) Bun Kee (International) Ltd
- (11) Kembla (HK) Ltd
- (12) Shun Lee Building Materials & Sanitary Wares Ltd

(B) Water Supplies Department Officers as Chairman/Members

- (1) Deputy Director of Water Supplies (Chairman)
- (2) Assistant Director/Customer Services
- (3) Chief Engineer/Customer Services

Secretary-

Senior Engineer/Customer Services (Technical Support)1, WSD
