



水務署

Water Supplies Department

香港灣仔告士打道七號入境事務大樓

Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong

電子郵遞

e-mail

wsdinfo@wsd.gov.hk

電話

Telephone

2829 4355

圖文傳真

Facsimile

2824 0578

檔號

Reference

(2) in WSD 3318/50 Pt.6

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Distribution: To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorized Persons

Dear Sirs,

WSD Circular Letter No. 4/2017 Random Inspection of New Plumbing Works during Construction Stage

To enhance the regulatory control on new plumbing installations, random inspection of plumbing works will be carried out by the Water Authority during the construction stage in addition to interim inspection and final inspection carried out under the Waterworks Regulations. A one-year pilot scheme for the random inspection of fresh water plumbing works under construction on a risk-based approach will be launched with effect from 1 April 2017. The pilot scheme will cover new plumbing works in domestic buildings and buildings for sensitive consumers such as hospital, clinic, convalescent home, elderly home, school etc. The pilot scheme will be reviewed nine months after its implementation and the result of the review will be used in designing the details of the long-term implementation of the random inspection after the pilot scheme. The Water Supplies Department has consulted the Technical Committee on Plumbing¹ and obtained support from committee members for implementation of the pilot scheme.

Under the pilot scheme, a number of relevant new plumbing installations under construction will be selected bimonthly for random inspection on a risk-based approach taking into account the risk factors and consequence of non-compliance. The risk factors include (i) the scale and nature of the projects; (ii) the workload, past performance, experience and Continuing Professional Development credits² of the licensed plumbers (LPs) engaged; (iii) whether the plumbing contractors engaged are included in the “Plumbing Installation” category on the List of Approved Specialist Contractors for Public Works maintained by the Development Bureau or in the

¹ Please refer to the following website for details.

(<http://www.wsd.gov.hk/en/plumbing-engineering/technical-committee/index.html>)

² Please refer to WSD Circular Letter No. 3/2016 “Voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Licensed Plumbers” for details.

“Plumbing” category on the List of Registered Subcontractor maintained by the Construction Industry Council; and (iv) whether soldering/brazing materials are used.

For a new plumbing project selected for random inspection, the Water Authority will contact the LP concerned about two weeks in advance of the scheduled date of the intended random inspection and ask the LP to advise about one week before the inspection whether (i) there are any plumbing works under construction available for inspection; (ii) the applicant / authorized person / main contractor agree to the Water Authority’s entry into the site for inspection; (iii) he/she or representatives from the applicant / authorized person / main contractor will accompany the Water Authority to carry out the inspection; and (iv) the scheduled date of the inspection can be confirmed.

During the inspection, plumbing materials found on site and plumbing works including the pipes, fittings and solder/brazed joints constructed/installed on site will be randomly selected for checking and non-destructive testing. The LP concerned will be notified of the irregularities identified for his/her rectification. Since it is not an acceptance inspection, the point penalty system is not applicable. A project, which has been selected for random inspection, will normally not be selected for conducting random inspection again within six months, subject to the number and seriousness of irregularities found during the inspection.

Should you have any enquiry, please contact our Engineer Mr. Tenny S B FU at telephone no. 2829 4484.

Yours faithfully,

(Original signed)

(CHAN Chung Kun)
for Water Authority

(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
Hong Kong Construction 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
Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Ltd
The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors Ltd
Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Ltd
Hong Kong Licensed Plumbers Union Limited
Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education, The Open University
of Hong Kong
The Association of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Hong Kong) Ltd

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