

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing

Date : 24th March 2016 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 p.m. ó 5:15 p.m.
Venue : Room 4819, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai

Present :

Chairman

Mr. LAM Ching Man Assistant Director/Customer Services, WSD

Members

Mr. Stephen WONG Kam Yin	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE)
Mr. Ivan HO Man Yiu	The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)
Mr. Vincent HO Kui Yip	The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Mr. HUNG Chi Kwong	Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Limited (HKPSWTA)
Mr. Hugo KAN Kwok Leung	The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering ó Hong Kong Branch Limited (CIPHE)
Mr. MA Yuk Ying	Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Limited
Mr. TANG Kwong Yiu	Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Limited
Mr. CHENG Wai Cheong	Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Limited
Mr. Thomas TSE Che Wah	Hong Kong Construction Association, Limited
Mr. Simon KWOK Tung Keung	Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Limited
Mr. Danny WONG Sing Lam	Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Limited
Mr. WONG Wing Wah	Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Limited
Mr. TANG Sze Wo	The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Company, Limited
Mr. LAU Chun Kay	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited (HKFEMC)
Mr. Barry KU Chun Ming	Bun Kee (International) Limited
Mr. Michael CHAN Ka Wah	Kembla (HK) Limited
Mr. Jason CHENG Kai Chun	Shun Lee Building Materials & Sanitary Wares Limited
Mr. Coleman TSE Kin Hung	The British Standards Institution (BSI) Hong Kong
Mr. LEE Wai Kwok	Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Limited
Mr. YU Wai Wai	The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong (<i>Ad-hoc</i>)
Mr. LAU Chiu Kwong	Chief Building Services Engineer/1, Architectural Services Department
Mr. NG Tat Kwan	Chief Building Services Engineer/2, Housing Department (HD)
Mr. TANG Hoi Kwan, Edwin	Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories West, Buildings

Mr. LI Chun Kit	Department (<i>Ad-hoc</i>) Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Licensing & Certification)(Atg), Fire Services Department (FSD) (<i>Ad-hoc</i>)
Mr. LI Kan Kay	Chief Engineer/Customer Services, WSD
Mr. LEE Tai On	Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance, WSD
Mr. LAU Chin Hung	Senior Mechanical Engineer/Customer Services (Material Control), WSD
Mr. CHEUNG Yip Kui	Senior Engineer/Customer Services (Technical Support) 2, WSD

Secretary

Mr. LAI Wing Kwong	Senior Engineer/Customer Services (Technical Support)1, WSD
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Notes Taker

Mr. WAN Chin Man	Engineer/Customer Services (Special Duty 4), WSD
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In attendance

Mr. NGAI Man Fai	Senior Engineer/Customer Services (NTW), WSD
Mr. LAW Yuk Fat	Senior Engineer/Customer Services (KIn)(Atg), WSD
Mr. CHAN Kin Kong	Engineer/Customer Services (Application)HK, WSD
Mr. WONG Chi Kong	Engineer/Customer Services (Application)NTE, WSD
Ms. LI Wai Man	Engineer/Customer Services (Special Duty 3), WSD
Ms. FOK Ka Lai	Engineer/Customer Services (Technical Support)1, WSD
Ms. KWAN Kai Yin	Engineer/Water Conservation (4), WSD
Mr. POON Wai Yee	Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Limited

Action by

Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the 1st meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing (TCP). The Chairman introduced the membership of TCP and the representatives of the Members joining the meeting. He noted that for this meeting-

- Mr. WONG Kam Yin was in place of Mr. CHUNG Chi Ming as the representative from HKIE ;
- Mr. Ivan HO Man Yiu was in place of Mr. Vincent NG Wing Shun from HKIA;
- Mr. LI Chun Kit was in place of Mr. TAM Lung Cheung from FSD; and
- Mr. Hugo KAN Kwok Leung was in place of Mr. CHAN Tin Chi from CIPHE.

The Chairman said that to accommodate the big TCP membership, some representatives of the same sectors had to sit in the back rows in turn.

2. The Chairman said that the TCP would take up the work of ad-hoc Task Group (TG) with more functions, and there would be two subgroups, one for plumbing works (i.e. the Works Subgroup) and one for plumbing materials (i.e. the Materials Subgroup). The setting up of the TCP was to establish a communication platform for various stakeholders to make recommendations and exchange views on plumbing matters. It also aimed at enabling the TCP, benefiting from Members' knowledge and expertise, to keep abreast of the development of plumbing technologies and standards.

Agenda Items

Item 1 – Terms of Reference and Membership, Meeting Mechanism, etc

3. WSD took the meeting through TCP paper No. 1/2016 (re. **Appendix 1**) regarding the setting up of TCP and its two Subgroups (i.e. Works Subgroup and Materials Subgroup), their terms of reference, memberships, meeting mechanism, etc. The Chairman reiterated that Members were assigned to different Subgroups according to their expertise, Subgroups were to study and make recommendations to the TCP for consideration, and every Member would consider recommendations of the Subgroups at the TCP level. The meeting discussed and endorsed the paper with the following amendments-

- (a) HKFEMC would join also the Materials Subgroup,
- (b) Members if interested in subjects handled by the other Subgroup, might sit in the meetings of the other Subgroup on an ad-hoc basis, and
- (c) the Chairman of a Subgroup, anticipating proposed recommendations of his Subgroup might be of concern to the other Subgroup, would refer the recommendations to the Chairman of the other Subgroup to collect views of the other Subgroup before finalizing the recommendations for submission to the TCP for consideration; such collection of views could be by circulation.

Item 2 – Matters arising from the Task Group on Implementation of New Improvement Measures for Controlling Construction of Inside Service

Proposals to Streamline Vetting of Plumbing Proposals and Inspection of Plumbing Works (re. para. 11–16 of Appendix 2)

4. WSD briefed the meeting about a draft WSD Circular Letter (CL) (re. **Appendix 3**) setting out measures for streamlining vetting of plumbing proposals and inspection of plumbing works. When the CL was issued, a pilot scheme to try out the measures would be implemented for one year and applicants might join on a voluntary basis. A review would be

carried out before the expiry of the scheme to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme, including improvement of the quality of plumbing proposals and saving of time, and to decide whether the scheme should continue. The scheme would cover (a) approval for plumbing proposal, and (b) inspection of plumbing works (including interim inspection of underground pipes and final inspection of completed plumbing works).

5. Regarding approval for plumbing proposal, WSD proposed to avail applicants an option (in addition to the existing arrangement) to submit plumbing proposal certified by a registered professional engineer in the building services discipline [RPE(BSS)]. WSD expected the quality of plumbing proposals under this part of the scheme would improve which would help shorten the time spent on vetting the plumbing proposals, and would assign a dedicated team to handle applications under this part of the scheme. Members' opinions included:

- (a) registered building surveyors might serve the role of RPE(BSS) in replumbing works or plumbing works in building maintenance, extension and renovation projects;
- (b) licensed plumbers (LPs) should also be qualified for certifying plumbing proposals; and
- (c) penalties might be imposed on applicants who join this part of the scheme but had his plumbing proposals rejected owing to inferior quality.

In conclusion, WSD would look into the proposal further taking into account Members' opinions.

WSD

6. Regarding inspection of plumbing works, WSD proposed an additional option which if chosen would involve the LP submitting completed inspection checklists (with photos and hydraulic test reports, etc., as appropriate) and an RPE(BSS) certifying the checklists. Members agreed to the proposal.

Interim Inspection of Concealed Pipes

7. WSD said that proposal for streamlining interim inspection of concealed pipes was preliminary and thus was not included in the proposed pilot scheme at this stage. WSD presented the preliminary proposal which involved introducing an additional option for interim inspection of concealed pipes (re. **Appendix 4**); under the option, LPs might choose to complete inspection checklists with site photos, and an RPE(BSS) not otherwise involved in the project would certify the checklists, then WSD would arrange the interim inspection with the LP as was currently done, or subject to the information submitted by the LP, issue approval to the LP for the concealed pipes to be covered. LP should carry out lead checks on the

concealed pipes and submit the test results to WSD for records. As the certifier should be an independent party, the meeting considered that the project Building Services Engineer (BSE) or Building Services Inspector (BSI) would not be suitable to be the certifier.

8. In conclusion, Members found WSD's proposal agreeable, and WSD would finalise the proposal for the consideration of the Works Subgroup.

WSD &
Works
Subgroup

Guideline for submission of plumbing proposal (re. para. 13(d) of Appendix 2)

9. On developing a guidebook for submission of plumbing proposals with a view to standardizing the submission format (schedules, presentation of drawings, standard drawings, etc.) of plumbing proposals, WSD proposed and Members agreed that this item would be followed up by the Works Subgroup.

Works
Subgroup

Implementation of Recommendations of WSD Task Force on Investigation of Excessive Lead Content in Drinking Water (re. para. 19–24 of Appendix 2)

10. Regarding Members' views on engaging qualified person to carry out adequate and regular field inspection (re. para. 19 of Appendix 2), Members were requested in the 3rd TG meeting to consult Members of their respective establishments and provide WSD with their views and suggestions in writing on this item. WSD proposed and Members agreed that this item would be followed up by the Works Subgroup.

Works
Subgroup

11. Regarding good practices or guidelines for systematic non-destructive tests of solder pipe joints (re. para. 20 of Appendix 2), WSD would look into drafting relevant good practice or guidelines. WSD proposed and Members agreed that this item would be followed up by the Works Subgroup.

Works
Subgroup

12. Regarding good practices or alerts for random sampling and testing of materials delivered to site (re. para. 21 of Appendix 2), WSD would study the feasibility of producing good practices or alerts in the form of a leaflet in sampling and testing of pipes and fittings in the construction stage. Furthermore, WSD suggested the use of supervision plan for plumbing works in new building projects. HD had shared with WSD their experience in pursuing product certification for building materials. WSD proposed and Members agreed that these items would be followed up by the Works Subgroup.

Works
Subgroup

13. Regarding the use of pipe materials free from risk of misuse of leaded solder (re. para. 23 of Appendix 2), WSD said that fittings free from risk of misuse of leaded solder were available and WSD would explore how soldering might be avoided. WSD proposed and Members agreed that this item would be followed up by the Materials Subgroup.

Materials
Subgroup

14. On developing model specifications for central procurement of solder materials for private building projects (re. para. 24 of **Appendix 2**), WSD said that the issue of central procurement of solder and sundry materials would be undertaken by the Development Bureau. HD said that the central procurement for their projects could be carried out either by main contractor or the plumbing sub-contractor subject to an acceptable sub-contractor management plan.

Guideline for updating “List of British Standards applicable to Inside Service and Fire Service”

15. WSD would look into developing a guidebook indicating how and when to implement new British Standards (BS). The web link for the list of currently adopted BS would be attached in the guidebook. Members opined that how the guidebook would be made available to users should be discussed. WSD proposed and Members agreed that this item would be followed up by the Materials Subgroup.

Materials
Subgroup

Item 3 – Follow-ups subsequent to the Inquiry by the Commission of Inquiry (COI) into Excess Lead Found in Drinking Water

16. The Chairman drew to Members’ attention that COI hearings had been completed and the COI was expected to issue its report in May 2016. Subsequently there would be various follow-up actions which might require Members’ input and participation. The Chairman appealed for Members’ future support in carrying out the follow-up actions.

All
Members

Item 4 – Any Other Business

17. Members noted that a new batch of plumbing materials would need to be reported in the Annex to WWO 46 Parts I and II starting from 1 Apr 2016, but many of such materials with WSD’s general acceptance (GA) were not available on the local market; and some plumbing materials were still waiting for WSD’s GA. Members said that they still required more time for laboratory testing and making application for GA for some of their pipes and fittings. Moreover, Members proposed to extend the transitional arrangements for non-potable water supply system for an additional half year. WSD replied that the processing of application of GA by WSD would generally take about one week and there was no backlog for applications of GA. WSD appealed to the relevant parties to submit applications for those pipes and fittings still without GA. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held to follow up the issue. [Post meeting notes: A meeting among approved accredited laboratories, major pipes and fitting supplies, HKPSWTA and WSD was held on 1 April 2016]

WSD

Next Meeting

18. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. The date and time for the next TCP meeting will be notified to Members in due course. Moreover, the Secretaries to the two Subgroups will notify relevant Members details of the first meetings of the Subgroups in due course.
