

## **Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing**

Date : 13 July 2017 (Thursday)  
Time : 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Venue : Room 4819, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai

### **Present :**

#### Chairman

Mr. CHAN Chung Kun                      Assistant Director/New Territories, WSD

#### Members

Mr. CHUNG Chi Ming	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr. HUNG Chi Kwong	Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Limited
Mr. Arthur Li	The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering – Hong Kong Branch Limited
Mr. MA Yuk Ying	Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Limited
Mr. TANG Kwong Yiu	Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Limited
Mr. TANG Sze Wo	The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Company Limited
Mr. Vincent LEE Chi Kin	Hong Kong Construction Association, Limited
Mr. WONG Wing Wah	Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Limited
Mr. Danny WONG Sing Lam	Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Limited
Mr. LAU Chun Kay	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited
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. LEE Wai Kwok	Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Limited
Mr. Vincent LO Wing Shing	The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong ( <i>Ad-hoc</i> )
Ms. Karen CHENG Ka Lai	Senior Building Services Engineer/CMD1, Architectural Services Department
Mr. YAU Kwan Shing	Chief Building Services Engineer/2, Housing Department
Mr. Edwin TANG Hoi Kwan	Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories West, Buildings Department ( <i>Ad-hoc</i> )
Mr. Roger WONG Yan Lok	Chief Engineer/Technical Support, WSD
Mr. LEE Tai On	Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance, WSD
Mr. Edwin CHAN Wing Chow	Senior Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD

#### Secretary

Mr. Calvin LAU Cheuk Fung            Senior Engineer/Technical Support (1)(Ag), WSD

Note Taker

Mr. Davis WAN Chin Man            Engineer/Technical Support (6), WSD

In attendance

Mr. POON Wai Yee                    Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Limited

Mr. Tenny FU Sau Bon                Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD

Mr. Daniel YEUNG Chin Ho           Engineer/Technical Support (4), WSD

Mr. WONG Hei Nok                    Engineer/Technical Support (5), WSD

Mr. Chan Chi Yam                     Engineer/Technical Support (7), WSD

Mr. Terry KUNG Ting Wai            Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD

Mr. WONG Suen Cheung              Senior Building Services Engineer/WQRST, Housing Department

Absent with apologies

Mr. Vincent HO Kui Yip              The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Mr. Ivan HO Man Yiu                 The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Mr. Coleman TSE Kin Hung          The British Standards Institution Hong Kong

Mr. Simon KWOK Tung Keung        Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Limited

Mr. CHENG Wai Cheong               Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Limited

**Action by**

**Opening Remarks**

1.            The Chairman introduced all present and welcomed them to the 5th meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing (TCP).

**Agenda Items**

**Item 1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

2.            The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> TCP meeting were confirmed without amendment.

## **Item 2 – Matters arising from the Last Meeting**

### (a) New Commissioning Requirements for New Plumbing Installations and Enhanced Workflow for Online Replumbing Works (re. para. 5 of 4th meeting minutes)

3. WSD said that WSD Circular Letter No. 5/2017, “*Online Re-plumbing Works*” and Circular Letter No. 6/2017, “*Systematic Flushing for New Plumbing Works*” incorporating the comments from TCP Members, had been issued on 26 May 2017 and 14 June 2017 respectively.

## **Item 3 – Matters arising from the TCP Works Subgroup**

### Review of Pilot Scheme on Voluntary Submission of Inspection Checklist as promulgated in WSD Circular Letter No. 2/2016

4. WSD took the meeting through TCP papers no. 6/2017 (re. Appendix 1) regarding the review of pilot scheme on voluntary submission of inspection checklist. Member’s opinion and WSD’s reply were as follows:

- (1) Members asked whether WSD would still carry out the final inspection on the completed plumbing works even if the inspection checklist and site photos had been certified by qualified person.

WSD replied that the final inspection on the completed plumbing works would still be required. It was also noted that the overall time for completion of inspection process for cases under the pilot scheme had been shortened. WSD would review the scheme on a regular basis.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 6/2017.

### New Enquiry System for Minor Works involving Water Tap/Mixer for Potable Use

5. WSD took the meeting through TCP papers no. 7/2017 (re. Appendix 2) regarding the new enquiry system for minor works. Members’ opinions and WSD’s replies were as follows:

- (1) Member asked how to identify the water tap/mixer for potable use.

WSD replied the water tap/mixer for potable use would normally be installed in kitchen. WSD also added that the proposed enquiry system aimed at enhancing the safety of drinking water.

- (2) Member asked how to implement the enquiry system for minor works.

WSD replied that an online enquiry system would be used to help the public ascertain whether their potable water taps/mixers to be used in the proposed plumbing works had met the relevant requirements such that the proposed works would be regarded as minor works. For those potable water taps/mixers with WSD's General Acceptance (GA), the works concerned would be regarded as minor works. Alternatively, the public could also upload relevant test certificate(s) to the online system showing their proposed water taps/mixers were in compliance with British Standards.

- (3) Member asked WSD to provide some other methods apart from the website to facilitate the public identifying the GA products.

WSD replied that WSD had implemented a labeling scheme for some GA products. In addition, the public might also call the WSD hotline for enquiring the GA products.

- (4) Member asked about the target user of the enquiry system.

WSD replied that the proposed enquiry system would be open for use by the public. WSD added that the proposal would be introduced to the public through various means.

- (5) Member asked about the definition of minor works.

WSD replied that the definition of minor works had been stipulated in WSD's webpage and also in the WSD's Handbook on Plumbing Installation.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 7/2017.

*Alternative Routes for Application of Excavation Permit for Temporary Water Supplies for Construction Sites*

6. WSD took the meeting through TCP papers no. 8/2017 (re. Appendix 3) regarding the alternative routes for application of excavation permits for temporary water supplies for construction sites. Members' opinions and WSD's replies were as follows:

- (1) Member asked whether the excavation permit could be applied by the

applicant instead of WSD.

WSD replied that the applicant could choose to apply excavation permit by themselves. WSD would invite the applicant in the approval letter that the applicant could opt to apply an excavation permit for carrying out the main laying works. WSD would require the applicant to present the excavation permit on site.

- (2) Member asked when WSD would apply the excavation permit.

WSD replied that after WSD had confirmed the demand note with the payment for the fee of excavation permit had been settled, WSD would start applying the excavation permit.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 8/2017.

#### Manpower Forecast of Licensed Plumbers (Stage 2)

7. The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) took the meeting through TCP papers no. 9/2017 (re. Appendix 4) regarding the manpower forecast of licensed plumbers (Stage 2). Members' opinions and WSD's replies were as follows:

- (1) Member asked WSD about the plan for enhancing the career prospect of licensed plumbers.

WSD replied that WSD was coordinating with the Vocational Training Council to explore the feasibility of developing course(s) for the licensed plumbers to become plumbing professionals.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 9/2017.

#### **Item 4 – Matters arising from the TCP Material Subgroup**

##### Surveillance Programme for the General Acceptance System

8. WSD took the meeting through TCP papers no. 10/2017 (re. Appendix 5) regarding the surveillance programme for the GA System. Members' opinions and WSD's replies were as follows:

- (1) Member asked whether the plumbing materials were still fit for purpose if

they had been procured before the removal of their GA by WSD.

WSD replied if the applicant could provide evidence for such procurement, the plumbing materials were still fit for purpose.

- (2) Member asked if a plumbing material had failed in the compliance test, would WSD inform the test result to the relevant applicants who had submitted that plumbing material in the Annex of WWO 46.

WSD replied that such information would be announced in the WSD web page. WSD added that the applicant was responsible to ensure that their proposed plumbing materials should have valid GA when submitting WWO46.

- (3) Member expressed concern over the implication of the Surveillance Programme on pre-sale of uncompleted flats. Members also opined that WSD might not allow the use of plumbing materials whose GA had been removed in the Surveillance Programme regardless their procurement was before the removal of GA.

WSD replied that if the plumbing materials had valid GA during the time of their procurement, they would be considered as fit for purpose. WSD added that there was no direct correlation between the GA of plumbing materials and the commissioning requirements for plumbing system and said that there should have contract provisions requiring sample testing for materials on site. WSD agreed to consider revising the Surveillance Programme.

WSD

- (4) Members expressed concern over the results of compliance test which might be affected by product variation. Members also had discussion on whether WSD should announce the compliance test results to the public before removal of the GA.

WSD

WSD replied that if a plumbing material had failed the compliance test, WSD would carry out investigation. WSD would take more samples for testing before removing the GA. WSD would consider reviewing the time for announcing the compliance test results to the public and the use of plumbing materials procured before the removal of GA.

In conclusion, WSD would revise the TCP paper No.10/2017.

Voluntary (GA\*) Scheme on Quality Plumbing Materials

9. WSD took the meeting through TCP papers no. 11/2017 (re. Appendix 6) regarding the Voluntary (GA\*) Scheme on Quality Plumbing Materials. After the presentation, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 11/2017.

Voluntary Quality Plumbing System Recognition Scheme

10. WSD took the meeting through TCP papers no. 11/2017 (re. Appendix 7) regarding the Voluntary (GA\*) Scheme on Quality Plumbing Materials. Members' opinions and WSD's replies were as follows:

- (1) Member asked who could carry out the certification. Member also suggested WSD to clarify the details of the certification.

WSD replied that AP could carry out the certification under the Recognition Scheme.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 12/2017.

**Item 5 – AOB**

11. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

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