

**ACQWS PAPER NO. 13**  
**FRESH WATER PLUMBING QUALITY MAINTENANCE RECOGNITION SCHEME**  
**(FWPQMRS)**

**1. Introduction**

In the quest to provide tourists and residents with a good quality of tap water supply in buildings, building owners have to maintain their plumbing well. To encourage the building owners to do this, the Water Supplies Department proposed to launch the Fresh Water Plumbing Quality Maintenance Recognition Scheme (FWPQMRS).

The FWPQMRS will be a voluntary scheme. It will be launched immediately after approval by this Committee with an initial estimated number of applications in the order of a few hundred. After a review, full implementation by 2003 is planned for all buildings that their owners/management agents are willing to join.

**2. Objectives of the FWPQMRS**

The Scheme aims to gauge the reaction to the proposal and to refine the proposal so that the final scheme will:

- (a) enable local residents and overseas visitors to have greater confidence of the water quality at the tap;
- (b) strengthen the capability of building management agents to achieve value-added performance in meeting the needs of consumers with respect to quality of tap water;
- (c) give recognition to those building management agents who can demonstrate consistent compliance of the prescribed criteria under the FWPQMRS; and
- (d) assist the owners, operators and building management agents to conduct self-assessments on plumbing conditions and to identify areas for necessary maintenance.

### **3. FWPQMRS**

The target groups will ultimately be the owners, operators and building management agents of all buildings. For the initial stage of the Scheme, it is expected that about a few hundred applications from management agents of hotels, restaurants and buildings in general will be willing to join. Upon the approval of the Advisory Committee on Quality of Water Supplies (ACQWS), the Scheme will be formally launched. Applications can be submitted in the format of Annex 1 and will be accepted up to 31 December 2002. The Scheme will then be evaluated for full implementation.

### **4. Benefits of Joining the FWPQMRS**

The successful applicants will be awarded the FWPQMRS status together with a certificate, the symbol of a successful building maintenance agent who maintains the plumbing up to a high standard for keeping the good quality of government supplied water throughout the inside service up to the consumers' taps. They are entitled to use the FWPQMRS certificate for display in their stationeries and promotional materials, subject to the guidelines issued by the Water Supplies Department.

### **5. Criteria for Assessment of Applications**

The application will be assessed based on the following criteria which will demonstrate that the applicant has maintained the plumbing in a proper manner and has been consistently upkeeping the level of plumbing maintenance of the premises/buildings covered by the scope of the application to a high standard:-

- (1) The plumbing system is found to be in good physical condition in inspections carried out at least once every three months by licensed plumbers or qualified building services surveyor or engineers.
- (2) All defects identified in the inspections are promptly rectified by licensed plumbers or qualified persons.
- (3) The water tanks are cleaned at least once every three months.
- (4) Water samples are taken in accordance with the recommended procedure and tested for items listed in Annex 2 at least once a year and the test results comply with the acceptable limits of these water quality indicators.

## **6. Administration of the Scheme**

The Pilot Scheme will be administered by the Water Supplies Department. There will be a FWPQMRS Appeal Board to consider appeal cases. The Chairman and members of the FWPQMRS Appeal Board will be appointed by the Director of Water Supplies.

## **7. Confidentiality of Application**

All applications will be kept confidential and only names of successful applicants will be publicized.

## **8. Renewal of the FWPQMRS Status**

Unless there are reasons to terminate or suspend the FWPQMRS status, the FWPQMRS status is valid for one year and can be renewed annually.

## **9. Application and Renewal Fees**

No application or renewal fees will be charged.

**16 July 2002**

**To: Water Authority**  
**47/F Immigration Tower**  
**7 Gloucester Road**  
**Wan Chai**  
**Hong Kong**

**Fresh Water Plumbing Quality Maintenance Recognition Scheme (FWPQMRS)**  
**Application Form**

I/We\* apply for acceptance to the Fresh Water Plumbing Quality Maintenance Recognition Scheme (FWPQMRS).

**A. Business Nature**

*Please indicate the main type of business of your organization by checking “ONE” of the boxes listed below.*

Hotels

Restaurants

Buildings (residential)

Buildings (commercial or combined commercial and residential)

**B. Applicant Details**

Name of owner / operator / management agent:

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Name and address of all buildings to be included in the FWPQMRS

(attach new sheet if necessary):

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Correspondence address:

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Name of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Post / Title of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact tel. no. / fax no. : \_\_\_\_\_

Contact e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We\* wish to receive future FWPQMRS correspondences by e-mail / fax / mail\*.

**C. Documents to be Included in the Application**

Please submit one copy of the following documents together with the application:

1. Business Registration Certificate (for hotels and restaurants only)
2. Hotel License (for hotels only)
3. Incorporated Owners Registration Certificate (where appropriate) for each building

**D. Terms and Conditions**

1. I/We\* declare that all the information and supporting documents provided for the purpose of this Application are true, accurate and complete.
2. I/We\* have maintained the plumbing up to a high standard for keeping the good quality of government water supplies throughout the inside service up to the consumers' taps.
3. I/We\* shall ensure that all my/our staff are fully aware of and observe the assessment criteria of the FWPQMRS at all times.
4. I/We\* shall co-operate with the WA for checking the compliance of the prescribed criteria of the FWPQMRS if considered necessary by the WA.
5. I/We\* agree that none of the WA, the Advisory Committee on Quality of Water Supplies (ACQWS) or the FWPQMRS Appeal Board of the FWPQMRS shall have any responsibility or liability whatsoever in relation to any dealings between the FWPQMRS Status Holder and their customers, or otherwise arising as a result of the FWPQMRS Status Holder holding the FWPQMRS status or FWPQMRS Status Holder ceases to hold the FWPQMRS status.
6. I/We\* shall not behave in a manner which may jeopardize or damage the reputation or interests of the Government of the HKSAR, the WA, the ACQWS, the FWPQMRS Appeal Board or the FWPQMRS.
7. I/We\* shall not transfer the FWPQMRS status or certificates to other persons or organizations without the permission of the WA.

8. I/We\* agree to abide by the decisions of the FWPQMRS Appeal Board and the Terms and Conditions of the FWPQMRS.

Authorized Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Title\_\_\_\_\_

Company Stamp\_\_\_\_\_

*\* please delete whichever not applicable.*

**Checklist on Tank Cleaning,  
Water Quality Examination and  
Plumbing Inspection**

(Please complete one set for each building)

**A. General Information**

Name of owner / operator / management agent: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of buildings inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

Building address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Post / Title of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact tel. no. / fax no. : \_\_\_\_\_

Contact e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Cleaning of Water Tanks**

No. of water tanks cleaned: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of cleaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last cleaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency of cleaning (Not less than once every three months): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Practitioner/Licensed Plumber employed for cleaning:

\_\_\_\_\_

Any notification served to the affected consumers: Yes / No

Any complaint caused by cleaning: Yes / No

If yes, actions taken to handle complaints:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Actions taken to prevent future complaints:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### C. Water Quality Examination

The purpose of the water quality examination is to check whether or not there is any deterioration in the conditions of the plumbing that cause water quality problem. As a guideline, at least one sample for physical and chemical analysis and another one for bacteriological analysis shall be taken from a randomly selected tap supplied from each water tank. The samples shall be taken by an independent body in a manner following the Water Supplies Department standard procedure.

Date of sampling: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of testing: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of samples taken from each water tanks and locations:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of last sampling and testing: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency of sampling and testing (Not less than once a year): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of independent body employed for sampling:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of laboratory<sup>1</sup> employed for testing samples:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Testing Results

Parameters	Unit	Acceptable Limits	Testing Requirements for Plumbing System		Test Result
			With Corrosion-Resistant Materials	With Non-Corrosion-Resistant Materials	
PH		6.5 – 9.5			
Colour	TCU	≤15			
Turbidity	NTU	≤ 3			
Conductivity	μS/cm	≤ 800			
Iron	mg/l	≤ 0.3			
E. coli.	Count / 100ml	0			
Total Coliform	Count / 100ml	0			

Note 1: The E. coli and Total Coliform tests shall be performed by an accredited laboratory. The other tests may be carried out by some other laboratories.

An accredited laboratory means a laboratory accredited under the Hong Kong Laboratory



Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) or equivalent to perform objective testing within the scope of the Scheme and meets the HOKLAS or equivalent criteria of competence. HOKLAS publishes a Directory of Accredited Laboratories and has an updated Internet version at <http://www.info.gov.hk/itc/eng/quality/hkas/hoklas/internet/TestCat-Environmental.shtml>.

#### D. Inspection of Plumbing Related to Water Quality

No. of water tanks inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of water pumps inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

Communal riser: Yes / No

Communal downfeed: Yes / No

Individual plumbing (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of this inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency of inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Licensed Plumber/Surveyor/Engineer employed for inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Inspection Checklist and Results:

Component	Action	Finding (✓/✗)	Follow up Actions to be Taken
Water Pipe (from connection point, communal riser to communal downfeed) and Pump	Is there any leakage?		
	Is there any serious corrosion to cause discolouration?		
Filter if installed	Is it installed for supply from a water tank?		
	Is it maintained with replacement of filter cartridge in accordance to the instruction given by the supplier?		
Water Tanks	Is the water dirty?		
	Are the tanks dirty?		
	Is there any cross connection between the fresh water storage tank and the flushing or fire service water tank?		

Component	Action	Finding (✓/✗)	Follow up Actions to be Taken
Water Tanks (cont' d)	Are the metallic components susceptible to corrosion?		
	Is there any sign of corrosion?		
	Are the overflow and warning pipes functioning and free from obstructions?		
	Are the access manholes provided with raised necks?		
	Are the access manhole covers double-sealed and locked?		