



水務署  
Water Supplies Department

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Distribution : To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorised Persons

Dear Sirs,

**WSD Circular Letter No. 1/2007**  
**Reduction of the Minimum Residual Pressure**

The sufficiency of water supply to a building depends on whether (a) WSD has maintained a minimum residual pressure of the supply zone and (b) the building designer has designed plumbing system according to the pressure so informed. With respect to the maintenance of minimum residual pressures, WSD has attained 100% achievement rate. That is why apart from serious leakage or main burst incidents we seldom have cases of persistent weak or insufficient supply.

However, pressure in water mains associates with a number of detrimental effect. The higher the pressure, the higher the operation and maintenance costs; the deterioration rate of mains; the leakage rate; the probability of main burst and the disturbance to the public. Also, there is to some degree a waste of energy in providing such water pressure as off-tank supply plumbing arrangement is required either for supply to upper floors of multi-storey buildings or for prevention of pollution.

Therefore, it is logical and reasonable to optimize the minimum residual pressure in our supply zones. Lowering of water leakage and main burst rates and preserving water resources better are beneficial to all parties.

Currently, we maintain a minimum residual pressure of 30-metre head in most **existing** fresh water supply zones except at their extremities. To maintain sufficiency of water supply to all existing buildings and all existing improvised sprinkler systems that have been designed to such pressure, we will continue to upkeep this pressure value, disregarding the source of supply to such buildings being from existing supply zones or future supply zones.

We have made reference to various national standards and

international practice and decided to lower the minimum residual pressure to 20-metre head. To this effect, we will provide a minimum residual pressure of 20-metre head, except at the extremities of supply zones for new developments in new or existing supply zones or re-developments in existing supply zones, for plumbing proposals first submitted to the Water Authority on or after 1 April 2008, disregarding our previous advice on minimum residual pressure. As in the current practice, upon receipt of an application, we will inform the designer of each project of this arrangement so that they can tailor their design.

Should you have any queries, please contact our Mr. Alan WONG at tel. No. 2829 4726.



(CHIN Chu Sum )  
for Water Authority

cc

Housing Department

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 Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering – Hong Kong Council

Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Ltd.

Hong Kong Licensed Plumbers Association Ltd.

Hong Kong Plumbing General Union

Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Ltd.

The Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Ltd.

The Association of Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors of Hong Kong Limited.

Real Estate Development Association

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