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Distribution : To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorized Persons

Dear Mr Sir,

WSD Circular Letter No. 1/97
Identification of Internal Fresh and Salt Water Mains
within Large Developments

The recent incident of wrong connection of the internal fresh and salt water systems within housing estates in Ma On Shan was the result of not having carefully differentiated the two systems before the connections were made. In that case, the fresh and salt water mains are of the same size and same pipe material. This arrangement is likely to cause confusion in pipelaying and connection work. To avoid connecting fresh water pipe to salt water pipe by mistake in the future, you are reminded to closely observe the following good practices, which are well established in the plumbing trade :-

- (i) When designing the plumbing proposals of large developments with internal fresh and flushing water mains to be laid at the same location, please endeavour to use different pipe materials and/or different sizing for the fresh and flushing water mains so that each of the two pipe systems can be easily identified and distinguished from the other on site.
- (ii) Before connecting newly completed pipes to internal fresh or flushing water mains under supply, utmost care should be exercised in identifying and distinguishing each of the two pipe systems. The identification can be done by following step by step a planned operation procedure and test methods such as chemical tests. It is also important that any newly laid pipework should not be put into use before it has been inspected and approved by this Authority.

These good practices should also be applied to other similar types of multi-system pipeworks such as those with a private sea water cooling system.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chan Chi-chiu', written in a cursive style.

(CHAN Chi-chiu)
for Water Authority

cc: WWO 27/9/3608/95

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