



水務署
Water Supplies Department

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Reference (25) in WSD 3318/50 Pt.6

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Distribution: To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorized Persons

Dear Sirs,

WSD Circular Letter No. 2/2018 Commencement of Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance 2018

The Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (“the Amendment Ordinance”) has come into operation on 15 February 2018.

2. The Amendment Ordinance aims to bring the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102) (“WWO”) in line with the policy intent and industry practice concerning persons designated for carrying out plumbing works and to formalise the current administrative requirement of requesting all applications for permission to carry out plumbing works to be submitted by licensed plumbers (“LP”).

3. For the full WWO as amended by the Amendment Ordinance, please visit WSD’s webpage:

<https://www.wsd.gov.hk/en/core-businesses/customer-services/law-enforcement/index.html>

Highlight of the Amendment Ordinance

4. The Amendment Ordinance allows skilled workers or semi-skilled workers for the relevant designated trade divisions (including (i) plumber, (ii) drain and pipe layer (master), (iii) fire service mechanic (master) and (iv) fire service mechanical fitter) registered under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 583)

(“CWRO”), in addition to LP and public officers authorised by the Water Authority (“WA”), to carry out plumbing works. It also aligns the requirement of the WWO with that of the CWRO in allowing other persons working under the instruction and supervision of LP, skilled workers or semi-skilled workers for the relevant designated trade divisions (“supervisors”) to carry out plumbing works.

5. Moreover, the Amendment Ordinance requires that all applications for permission of the WA to carry out plumbing works must be made by LP. The LP who applies for the permission (“the Responsible LP”) must ensure that the works covered by the permission comply with section 14(3) of the amended WWO.

6. Further, in order to make sure that plumbing works are carried out by designated persons, under section 15B of the amended WWO, the WA or public officers authorized by him may at any reasonable time, without prior consent or warrant, enter into non-domestic premises to inspect and question any persons found on the premises in relation to the plumbing works.

7. As amended by the Amendment Ordinance, a prosecution for a contravention of the WWO may be brought within six months from the date immediately after the date on which the contravention is discovered by, or comes to the notice of, the WA. For contravention in relation to the construction or installation of, or alteration to, a fire service or inside service, no prosecution may commence if the contravention is discovered by, or comes to the notice of, the WA after six years after the date of submission of application to the WA for inspection and approval of such works, or after six years after the date of the contravention in the case of alterations of a minor nature.

8. The transitional arrangement of the Amendment Ordinance is as follows:

- in relation to the permission of the WA for plumbing works, permission granted before 15 February 2018 will continue to have effect;
- applications for permission of the WA for plumbing works made before 15 February 2018 will continue to be processed under the WWO before the amendment;

- the liability of Responsible LP, supervisors and persons who carry out plumbing works under the Amendment Ordinance is not applicable to plumbing works that were granted permission before 15 February 2018; and
- the new time limit for prosecution is not applicable to a contravention committed before 15 February 2018.

Publication

9. We have issued a “Practice Guide on Carrying Out Plumbing Works” and a promotional leaflet to facilitate trade practitioners in understanding the requirements in the Amendment Ordinance while they carry out plumbing works. Please access the publications at WSD’s webpage:

<https://www.wsd.gov.hk/en/publications-and-statistics/index.html>

Enquiry

10. Should you have any enquiry, please contact our Senior Engineer/Legislative Review (2) at telephone no. 2294 2708.

Yours faithfully,

(Original signed)

(CHAN Chung Kun)
for Water Authority

c.c.

Housing Department (Attn: SM/QM)

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 Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering – Hong Kong Council

Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Ltd.
Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Ltd.
Hong Kong Plumbing General Union
Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Ltd.
The Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Ltd.
Plumbing Technology Student Association
The Association of Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors of Hong Kong Limited
Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education
Construction Industry Council
The Hong Kong Construction Association, Ltd
Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Ltd
The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors Ltd
Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Ltd
Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Ltd
Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Company Ltd
Building Services Operation and Maintenance Executives Society
The Hong Kong Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Association Ltd
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Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education, The Open University of Hong Kong
The Association of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Hong Kong) Ltd

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