



總部 Headquarters

香港灣仔告士打道七號入境事務大樓 48 樓

48/F, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

本署檔號 : (26) in WSD 3318/50 Pt.6
Our ref.
來函檔號 :
Your ref.

電話 : 2829 4355
Tel.
傳真 : 2824 0578
Fax.

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Distribution: To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorized Persons

Dear Sirs,

WSD Circular Letter No. 3/2018 Standing Arrangement for Random Inspection of New Plumbing Works during Construction Stage

WSD Circular Letter No. 4/2017 stipulated a one-year pilot scheme for the random inspection of fresh water plumbing works under construction on a risk-based approach with effect from 1 April 2017. A review on the pilot scheme has been conducted as required in the above Circular Letter. According to the findings of the review, it is considered that the random inspection allows licensed plumbers (LPs) to arrange early rectification for irregularities and enhance the quality control on new plumbing installations. The Water Supplies Department (WSD) therefore decided that the random inspection shall be implemented as a standing arrangement. The WSD has consulted the Technical Committee on Plumbing¹ and obtained support from committee members for the implementation of standing arrangement of random inspection with immediate effect.

Detailed arrangement of the random inspection is given below, which is the same as that in the pilot scheme except for the identity check of site personnels:-

- (a) Random inspection will cover new plumbing works in domestic buildings and buildings for sensitive consumers such as hospital, clinic, convalescent home, elderly home, school etc.
- (b) A number of relevant new plumbing installations under construction will be selected

¹ Please refer to the following website for details.

(<https://www.wsd.gov.hk/en/plumbing-engineering/technical-committee/index.html>)

bimonthly for random inspection on a risk-based approach taking into account the risk factors and consequence of non-compliance. The risk factors include (i) the scale and nature of the projects; (ii) the workload, past performance, experience and Continuing Professional Development credits² of the LPs engaged; (iii) whether the plumbing contractors engaged are included in the “Plumbing Installation” category on the List of Approved Specialist Contractors for Public Works maintained by the Development Bureau or in the “Plumbing” category on the List of Registered Subcontractor maintained by the Construction Industry Council; and (iv) whether soldering/brazing materials are used.

- (c) For a new plumbing project selected for random inspection, the Water Authority will contact the LP concerned about two weeks in advance of the scheduled date of the intended random inspection and ask the LP to advise about one week before the inspection whether (i) there are any plumbing works under construction available for inspection; (ii) the applicant / authorized person / main contractor agree to the Water Authority’s entry into the site for inspection; (iii) he/she or representatives from the applicant / authorized person / main contractor will accompany the Water Authority to carry out the inspection; and (iv) the scheduled date of the inspection can be confirmed.
- (d) During the random inspection, plumbing materials found on site and plumbing works including the pipes, fittings and solder/brazed joints constructed/installed on site will be randomly selected for checking and non-destructive testing. The LP concerned will be notified of the irregularities identified for his/her rectification. Since it is not an acceptance inspection, the point penalty system is not applicable. A project, which has been selected for random inspection, will normally not be selected for conducting random inspection again within six months, subject to the number and seriousness of irregularities found during the inspection.
- (e) During the random inspection, the identity of site personnels engaged in the plumbing works will also be randomly selected for compliance checking under section 15 of the Waterworks Ordinance.

WSD Circular Letter No. 4/2017 is hereby superseded.

Should you have any enquiry, please contact our Engineer/Technical Support (2) at telephone no. 2829 4484.

Yours faithfully,

(Original signed)

(CHAN Chung-kun)

for Water Authority

² Please refer to WSD Circular Letter No. 3/2016 “Voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Licensed Plumbers” for details

(with Chinese translation)

- 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 Ltd
 The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education
 Construction Industry Council
 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
 Hong Kong Licensed Plumbers Union Limited
 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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