



水務署
Water Supplies Department

總部 Headquarters

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Distribution: To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorized Persons

Dear Sirs,

WSD Circular Letter No. 5/2019
Streamlined Measures for Processing Applications for Water Supplies to
Improvised Sprinkler Systems

Provision of a sprinkler system forms part of the licensing requirements for premises such as restaurants with an area exceeding 230 square metres or at basement with an area exceeding 126 square metres. However, it may not be feasible to install fire service water tanks for the sprinkler systems for premises located in old composite buildings due to structural or spatial constraints. To facilitate meeting the licensing requirement, the Fire Services Department (FSD) allows adoption of alternative proposals, i.e., the installation of improvised sprinkler systems with direct connection to government water mains or a connection from existing fire hydrant/hose reel systems.

To install an improvised sprinkler system, the applicant will have to confirm the supply pressure available with Water Supplies Department (WSD) before applying to FSD for the eligibility of the installation, then to WSD for water supply. WSD will process applications for water supply to improvised sprinkler systems after FSD endorsed the eligibility of the installation, and will apply for excavation permit from Highways Department (HyD) for the connection works after approval to the plumbing proposal is given. The sequential processes will result in relatively long lead time of the whole process before the improvised sprinkler system could be put into operation.

To address the trade's concerns on the long time needed for the application process, the WSD has formulated streamlined measures in consultation with FSD to facilitate the processing of applications for improvised sprinkler systems, and has consulted the Technical Committee on Plumbing on the streamlined measures. The details are set out in the ensuing paragraphs: -



- a) **Parallel processing of applicants' submissions to FSD and their enquiries to WSD on water pressure** – Applicants can make enquiries to WSD on water pressure and connection point, and submit applications to FSD for the eligibility for installation of improvised sprinkler systems in parallel. On receiving enquiries for water pressure and connection point from the applicants, WSD will provide the information as soon as possible.
- b) **Parallel vetting of the application for water supply and eligibility for installation of the improvised sprinkler system** – Currently, WSD will process the application for water supply after FSD's endorsement on the eligibility of the installation of an improvised sprinkler system. Moreover, WSD will register the connection works with HyD for the application for excavation permit after giving approval to the plumbing proposal. To speed up the process, WSD will adopt the following streamlined procedures:
- **Vetting the plumbing proposal before FSD's endorsement on eligibility:** WSD will process and approve an application for water supply for an improvised sprinkler system whether or not FSD's endorsement on the eligibility for its installation has been given. WSD will give a conditional approval to the applicant's plumbing proposal upon completion of the vetting. To further streamline the application process, if the applicant has engaged a licensed plumber at the time of the submission of the plumbing proposal, the licensed plumber engaged can choose to submit the application for commencement of plumbing works (i.e. WWO 46 Part I and II) together with the plumbing proposal. However, WSD will only grant a written permission to proceed with construction of the proposed plumbing works after the applicant has obtained FSD's endorsement on the eligibility for installation; and
 - **Advancing registration of excavation works:** WSD will register the connection works with HyD for the application of excavation permit before approving the plumbing proposal as soon as the location of the water connection point has been ascertained.

The above measures will be applicable to applications for water supplies to improvised sprinkler systems with Form WWO 542 submitted on or after 1 August 2019.

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

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 Branch

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

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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