



水務署
Water Supplies Department

總部 Headquarters

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1 March 2021

Distribution: All Licensed Plumbers and Authorized Persons

Dear Sirs,

Circular Letter No. 1/2021
Alternative Sampling Arrangement for Chemical Composition Tests for
General Acceptance (GA) Application

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has a General Acceptance (GA) system in place to pre-approve plumbing products used in plumbing projects. To get the pre-approval status for their products, applicants have to submit documents to show compliance with the statutory and other requirements imposed by the Water Authority (WA) as stated in the Technical Requirements for Plumbing Works in Buildings (Technical Requirements).

2. It is not uncommon that same plumbing products (e.g. pipes and valves) comprise variants of different sizes. Plumbing products under the same manufacturing process and using the same raw materials are unlikely to have large difference in chemical compositions. In this consideration, this Circular Letter promulgates a new sampling arrangement which introduces an alternative route that allows applicants, by making a valid declaration on the manufacturing process and raw materials used, reduce the number of samples required for chemical composition tests. Details are set out in ensuing paragraphs.

NEW SAMPLING ARRANGEMENT

3. To pursue the alternative route as above-mentioned, application has to abide by the following requirements:-

- (a) The applicant should enclose in the GA application documents a duly completed declaration form in the format as at **Annex**.
- (b) With the valid declaration in (a) above, the applicant can follow the sampling requirement set out in **Table 1** below for chemical composition tests.

Table 1

| No. of sizes of the product | No. of sample(s) required for chemical composition tests |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 2* |
| 5 | 2* |
| 6 | 2* |
| 7 | 3** |
| 8 | 3** |
| 9 | 3** |
| >=10 | 3** |

* Two samples, one for each of the smallest and the largest size

**Three samples, one for each of the smallest, middle (either one of the middles if even number) and the largest size

4. For plumbing product acquiring GA status through the alternative route set out in paragraph 3 above, it will be subject to a higher chance of being selected under the GA surveillance programme¹. In case the product is found under GA surveillance to be inconsistent with the submitted declaration, the applicant concerned will not be allowed to adopt the alternative route in future.

5. Applicants do not opt for the alternative route can still adopt the current sampling requirement for chemical composition tests as shown in Table 2 below.

¹ Chance for GA products acquired by alternative route being selected under the GA surveillance programme will be double of GA products acquired by current sampling requirement.

Table 2

| No. of sizes of the product | No. of sample(s) required for chemical composition tests |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 [^] |
| 4 | 3 [^] |
| 5 | 3 [^] |
| 6 | 3 [^] |
| 7 | 5 ^{^^} |
| 8 | 5 ^{^^} |
| 9 | 5 ^{^^} |
| ≥ 10 | 5 ^{^^} |

[^] Three samples, one for each of the smallest, middle (either one of the middles if even number) and the largest size

^{^^} Five samples, one for each of the smallest size, middle size (either one of the middles if even number), largest size, a size between the smallest size and middle size and another size between the largest size and middle size

EFFECTIVE DATE

6. This alternative sampling arrangement is applicable to GA applications with chemical composition test completion on or after 1 April 2021.

ENQUIRY

7. Should you have any enquiry, please contact our Mechanical Engineer/Material Control at telephone no. 2294 2656.

Yours faithfully,

(Original Signed)

(Roger WONG)

for Water Authority

(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
 Real Estate Development Association of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education
 Hong Kong Institute of Construction, 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
 Pipeman Engineering (International) Limited

WSD 3318/15/81

**Declaration for Alternative Sampling Arrangement for
Chemical Composition Tests for General Acceptance (GA) Application**

- (i) We / I declare that each type of fitting and/or each fitting component involved in this series of plumbing products of different sizes are manufactured using the same raw material¹ and under the same manufacturing process²;

[List out the series of products]

....

and

- (ii) We / I declare that the sample provided for testing and certification by any accredited testing agent is the representative sample of the product submitted for GA application, and all such GA products manufactured shall be replicas of that sample, without modifications or change of specified materials of construction.

Company Chop / Authorized Signature : _____

Date : _____

Name of Authorized Signature: _____

¹ Same raw material means same material grade applied to a type of fittings or a fitting component for a plumbing product of different sizes. If different material grade is used, separate sampling will be required. For example, the valve stem material involves two different materials for different sizes (material A for three sizes and material B for another three sizes), hence a total of two samples will be required.

² Same manufacturing process means same type of fitting or same fitting component for a plumbing product of different sizes. If different types of fittings and different fitting components are involved, separate sampling will be required.

- (a) For example, for copper fittings involving five fitting types (such as tee, bend, reducer, coupler and end-cap) with each type of fitting produced in three sizes, a total of five samples (one for each type) will be required.
- (b) For example, a model of copper alloy gate valve involving four components (such as body, bonnet, seat and stem) with each component produced in three sizes, a total of four samples (one for each component) will be required.