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Distribution: To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorized Persons

Dear Sirs,

WSD Circular Letter No. 11/2019 Water Efficiency Requirements for Water-closet Fitment in Inside Service

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has launched the voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) for various types of plumbing fixtures and water-consuming devices in phases since 2009 and water-closet fitments were included in WELS in May 2018. To promote water conservation, the WSD introduced in January 2017 the first stage of mandating the use of designated products (viz. showers for bathing, water taps and urinal flushing valves) of prescribed water efficiency grading registered under WELS for all proposed plumbing works in designated part of premises¹.

To promote wider use of WELS products in plumbing installations, the above mandatory requirement will be extended to water-closet fitments² as set out in the ensuing paragraphs. The WSD has consulted the Technical Committee on Plumbing before finalizing the above requirement.

¹ The requirements via the WSD Circular Letter No. 2/2017 take effect on 1 February 2017 for full implementation on 1 February 2018. Under the requirements, for all proposed plumbing works submitted using the Form WWO 46 for designated part of premises, the proposed products to be used for showers for bathing, water taps and urinal flushing valves should comply with prescribed water efficiency gradings registered under WELS. The requirements have subsequently been subsumed into Section 4.1.2 and Appendix 7 of “Guide to Application for Water Supply (Oct 2019)” and Chapter 7 of “Technical Requirements of Plumbing Works in Buildings (Oct 2019)”.

² In accordance with Section 4.6 of the Scheme Document for WELS on water closets, the term “water closet” covers toilet suite (one-piece water closet pan); water closet pan only; water closet cistern only; and a combination of a water closet pan and cistern (close-coupled suite).

New Requirements

All water-closet fitments proposed in Form WWO 1149 (the “List of Pipes and Fittings”) for proposed plumbing works should comply with the prescribed water efficiency requirements as detailed in the Table A below, subject to the exemption as set out in **Annex A**.

Table A: Prescribed Water Efficiency Requirement of Water-closet Fitment for Designated Parts of Premises

<i>Designated parts of premises</i>	<i>Prescribed water efficiency</i>
(a) Toilet(s) of domestic premises	Grade 1 or Grade 2
(b) Toilet(s) of non-domestic premises, without automatic sensing flushing apparatus(es)	Grade 1 or Grade 2
(c) Toilet(s) of non-domestic premises, with automatic sensing flushing apparatus(es)	Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3
(d) Disabled toilet(s) of any premises	Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3

Grace Period

The above requirement will take effect from **1 December 2019** with a one-year grace period, during which the use of water-closet fitments in proposed plumbing works that comply with the prescribed water efficiency requirements in Table A is optional. Upon the expiry of the grace period, the use of water-closet fitments complying with the prescribed water efficiency requirements shall be mandatory for all proposed plumbing works with Form WWO 1149 first submitted to WSD on or after 1 December 2020.

In connection with the above requirements, the Notes of the Form WWO 1149 are revised as set out in **Annex B**, which shall be used for all submissions of Form WWO 1149 to be submitted to the WSD on or after 1 December 2019.

Should you have any enquiry, please contact our Project Coordinator/Planning Policy at telephone no. 2829 4477.

Yours faithfully,

(Original signed)

(CHAN Chung-kun)
for Water Authority

Encl.
(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 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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