

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing

Date : 11 March 2019 (Monday)
Time : 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Venue : Room 4819, 48/F, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai

Present :

Chairman

Mr. CHAN Chung Kun Assistant Director/New Territories, WSD

Members

Mr. CHUNG Chi Ming	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr. Ivan HO Man Yiu	The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Mr. Vincent HO Kui Yip	The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Mr. HUNG Chi Kwong	Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Limited
Ms. Sylvia LIU Ping Ching	The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering – Hong Kong Branch Limited
Mr. MA Yuk Ying	Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Limited
Mr. TANG Kwong Yiu	Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Limited
Mr. CHENG Wai Cheong	Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Limited
Mr. Kenneth WONG Siu Keung	The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Company Limited
Mr. Simon KWOK Tung Keung	Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Limited
Mr. WONG Wing Wah	Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Limited
Mr. Vincent LEE Chi Kin	Hong Kong Construction Association, Limited
Mr. Danny WONG Sing Lam	Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Limited
Mr. LAU Chun Kay	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited
Mr. Barry KU Chun Ming	Bun Kee (International) Limited
Mr. Michael CHAN Ka Wah	Kembla (HK) Limited
Mr. Sunny HO Yuen Kin	Shun Lee Building Materials & Sanitary Wares Limited
Mr. LEE Wai Kwok	Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Limited
Mr. Ricky NG Ka Wai	The British Standards Institution Hong Kong
Mr. Vincent LO Wing Shing	The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong (<i>Ad-hoc</i>)
Mr. Rico CHEUNG Yip Kui	Chief Engineer/Technical Supports, WSD
Mr. CHO Ping Ho	Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance, WSD
Mr. YAU Kwan Shing	Chief Building Services Engineer/2, Housing Department
Ms. CHENG Ka Lai	Chief Building Services Engineer, Architectural Services Department
Mr. WONG Chun Yip	Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Licensing & Certification), Fire Service Department (<i>Ad-hoc</i>)

Ms. Anny LAW Pui Sze	Senior Building Surveyor/NTW2, Buildings Department (<i>Ad-hoc</i>)
Mr. Warren LO Tsz Lung	Senior Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD
Mr. Edmond LAU Chin Hung	Senior Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD

Secretary

Mr. IP Chit Ki	Senior Engineer/Technical Support (1), WSD
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Note Taker

Mr. Davis WAN Chin Man	Engineer/Technical Support (6), WSD
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In attendance

Mr. WONG Ming Kwong	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Technical Development, WSD
Mr. HO Kin Bong	Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Technical Development, WSD
Mr. Terry KUNG Ting Wai	Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD
Mr. Daniel YEUNG Chin Ho	Engineer/Technical Support (4), WSD
Mr. Max TONG Man Kit	Engineer/Technical Support (5), WSD

Action by

Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all Members and the representatives of Government departments to the 10th meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing (TCP).

Agenda Items

Item 1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The draft minutes were confirmed subject to the following amendment proposed by a Member:
 - (i) The proposal of the surveillance programme detailed in paragraph 8 should be further commented by Members before implementation.

Item 2 – Matters arising from the Last Meeting

(i) Control measures of materials installed/used in potable water tanks of inside service (re. para. 4 of 9th meeting minutes)

3. WSD briefed the meeting on the updated implementation details for the control measures of materials installed/used in potable water tanks. Member's opinion and WSD's reply were as follows:

- (1) Members asked about the implementation date for the control measures, and also asked whether the effective date referred to the submission date or works completion date.

WSD replied that the control measures would be effected since 1 April 2020 applicable on the date of submission of the Form WWO 1149 for plumbing works. WSD would update the technical requirement accordingly.

- (2) Members asked whether the control measures covered both the potable water tank and saltwater tank.

WSD replied that only potable water tank would be covered. WSD would update the technical requirement accordingly.

- (3) Members asked about the sampling rate for infilling materials.

WSD would brief Members the details for handling plumbing products with special GA status, including the sampling rate, in due course.

- (4) Members asked whether cement concrete and tile adhesive would be covered by the control measures. Members said it was difficult to ascertain the quality of sand on site.

WSD mentioned that the control measure would only cover those materials on the outermost layer in the water tank in direct contact with water and with relatively high surface area-to-volume ratio and relatively long contact time. For patch up repair materials, WSD would only accept the pre-mixed cementitious products and would not allow in-situ mixing cement and sand for preparation of cementitious products with a view to having a better quality control. Therefore, the pre-mixed cementitious product would be covered by the control measure while the tile adhesive and the structural concrete

underneath the tiles were not required to be covered.

- (5) Members asked about the responsibilities of licensed plumber (LP) in the proposal. Members said WSD should allow sufficient time for the relevant parties to revise the contract requirement with a view to facilitating the implementation of the control measures.

WSD replied that the LP should ascertain the materials installed in the potable water tank were identical to those approved by the WSD in the form WWO 1149.

In conclusion, the meeting generally supported the proposal. WSD would consider the above comment and circulate the revised proposal to Members for comment in due course.

(ii) Audit of water sampling tests for commissioning of unoccupied new buildings/village houses (re. para. 5 of 9th meeting minutes)

4. WSD briefed the Members that the proposal of random audit on water sampling tests carried out by accredited laboratories for commissioning of unoccupied buildings/village houses was still under review and WSD would brief Members on the proposal in due course.

Item 3 – Review of effectiveness of measures for reducing the processing time of applications for water supplies

5. WSD briefed the Members on the streamlining measures which had been implemented since 2017 with a view to reducing the processing time of applications for water supplies. Members were briefed on some analysis on the effectiveness of the streamlining measures. WSD would consider implementing more streamlining measures for speeding up the application process, in particular the application for the water supplies for new buildings and village houses. Member's opinion and WSD's reply were as follows:

- (1) Members expressed concern on several cases whose application process had been lasted for a few months.

WSD said that a dedicated team for handling the application for separate meter had been set up since December 2018 with a view to speeding up the application process on separate meters. Members could provide WSD with the relevant information of those cases to follow up.

- (2) Members expressed concern on the long application process for temporary water supply for construction sites.

WSD said that the application for excavation permit (EP) from the Highways Department (HyD) would normally take more than half-year. WSD would arrange to effect water supply as soon as the EP was approved by the HyD. WSD stated that according to the streamlined procedures stipulated in the WSD Circular Letter No. 5/2018, the developer or Authorized Person can submit the Form WWO 542 with a plan showing the proposed location and size of the pipeworks at the boundary of the works site for connection to government mains to apply for temporary water supply to the construction site as early as possible before the construction contract commencement date such that WSD could apply for EP as soon as possible.

In conclusion, WSD would continue to implement streamlining measure to speed up the application process for water supplies and brief Members on the proposals in due course.

Item 4 – Any other business

(i) Handling of plumbing materials with special general acceptance status under Surveillance Programme

6. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 1/2019 (re. **Appendix 1**) regarding the surveillance programme on general acceptance (GA) products with product certification. WSD added that if the GA applicants had announced to WSD that their GA products had already obtained product certification, those products would be considered as satisfying the surveillance requirement of the programme. Member asked about the implementation date for the proposed measures, WSD replied that the proposed measures would be implemented as soon as possible after the endorsement by the TCP Members. Upon deliberation, TCP paper No. 1/2019 was endorsed in the meeting.

(ii) Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) policy in new development

7. WSD briefed the Members on the current implementation and the plan to promote wider application of AMR for fresh water supplies in HK. WSD said that AMR would encourage and facilitate consumers' development of a water-saving behaviour by enhancing their awareness of their water consumption. It could also enable detection of abnormal water consumption of individual customers which may be caused by leakage in their internal plumbing system and alert them for taking early rectification action. Member's opinion and WSD's reply were as follows:

- (1) Members asked whether the installation of AMR would affect the size of meter room and also the location of the AMR Outstation.

WSD replied that the part of the E&M installation for AMR would be mounted on the wall and it might not adversely affect the size of the meter room. The AMR Outstation comprises smart water meters of individual premises, AMR panel housing the Data Concentration Unit (“DCU”), power supply equipment, data communication and auxiliary equipment and a cabling network in the building.

- (2) Members expressed concern on the strength of the signal of the AMR Outstation in the whole building.

WSD replied that the signal between different floors would be transmitted by wires.

- (3) Members asked whether the approval of the AMR Outstation would affect the submission of form WWO 46 to WSD.

WSD said that the approval of AMR Outstation would not affect the process of application for water supply.

In conclusion, the meeting generally supported the AMR policy. WSD would circulate the relevant information to Members in due course.

(iii) Membership of the next term of Technical Committee on Plumbing from 2019 to 2022

8. WSD informed the Members of the proposed TCP membership for the new service term of TCP from 24 March 2019 to 23 March 2022 (re. **Appendix 2**). WSD stated that the letters for inviting nomination for the new service term of TCP had already been sent to the relevant parties.

9. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.
