

**Minutes of the 11th Meeting of
Technical Committee on Plumbing**

Date : 9 July 2019 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 p.m. – 5:45 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. Philip CHAN Kai Shing	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr. Artur AU YEUNG Chi King	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 (HKPSWTA)
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. POON Wai Yee	Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Limited
Mr. CHENG Wai Cheong	Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Limited
Mr. WONG Ping Fai	Plumbing Technology Student Association
Mr. Vincent LEE Chi Kin	The Hong Kong Construction Association, Limited
Mr. Mr. YUEN Hung Wai	Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Limited
Mr. Danny WONG Sing Lam	Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Limited
Mr. WONG Wing Wah	Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Limited
Mr. Kenneth WONG Siu Keung	The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Company Limited
Mr. Eric YUNG Chun Tang	The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited
Mr. Simon TSANG Siu Fai	The Association of Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors of Hong Kong 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. Eric MUI Pak Ming	Gate Way Valve and Fitting Limited
Mr. Ricky NG Ka Wai	The British Standards Institution Hong Kong
Mr. Stanley CHAN Man Kwong	The Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Limited

Mr. Vincent LO Wing Shing	The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Mr. LEUNG Ka Fung	Senior Building Services Engineer, Architectural Services Department
Mr. LO Kin Pong	Senior Building Services Engineer, Housing Department
Mr. Anthony HUNG Ling Chi	Chief Building Surveyor/NTW, Building Department
Mr. LI Kai Chung	Assistant Director of Chief Fire Officer, Fire Services Department (FSD)
Mr. Rico CHEUNG Yip Kui	Chief Engineer/Technical Supports, WSD
Mr. LIU Chung Ping	Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance (Ag.), WSD

Secretary

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

Ms. Celine YEUNG Sze Ling	Engineer/Technical Support (1), WSD
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In attendance

Mr. LAM Ching Man	Team Leader/ Technical Support, WSD
Mr. Simon LEUNG Chi Hung	Chief Engineer/Development (1), WSD
Mr. Tenny FU Sau Bong	Senior Engineer/ Planning Policy (1), WSD
Mr. Alvin CHAN Kin Hung	Senior Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD
Mr. Warren LO Tsz Lung	Senior Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD
Mr. Andrew WONG Yin Fun	Senior Engineer/New Territories East (4), WSD
Mr. Terry KUNG Ting Wai	Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD
Mr. Mico IP Wing Ho	Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD
Mr. Daniel YEUNG Chin Ho	Engineer/Technical Support (4), WSD
Mr. Max TONG Man Kit	Engineer/Technical Support (5), WSD
Mr. Davis WAN Chin Man	Engineer/Technical Support (6), WSD
Mr. Simon KWOK Tsz Man	Project Coordinator/Planning Policy, WSD

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Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all presents to the 11th meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing (TCP). He introduced all Members and welcomed the following newly join associations: -

- Plumbing Technology Student Association
- The Association of Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors of Hong Kong Limited
- Gate Way Valve and Fitting Limited

2. The chairman briefed the meeting that TCP was to establish a communication platform for various stakeholders to advise the Government on plumbing matters, benefiting from Members' knowledge of the latest development of plumbing technologies and standards.

Agenda Items

Item 1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

3. The minutes of the 9th and 10th TCP meeting were confirmed without amendment.

Item 2 – Terms of Reference, Declaration of Interests, Mechanism for Calling Meetings, and Disclosure of Information

4. WSD briefed the Members on the proposed term of reference of the TCP meeting.

5. WSD informed all Members that the guidelines for declaration of interests had been sent to all Members on 8 April 2019. As stipulated in the guidelines, if any Member found that he had a personal or pecuniary interest in any matters under consideration by the TCP, the Member should disclose it to the Chairman, who would then decide whether the Member might remain in or should withdraw from the meeting.

6. WSD briefed the mechanism for calling meetings. There would be two sub-groups under the TCP, namely Material Sub-group and Works Sub-group, to study and make recommendations to the TCP for consideration. Ad-hoc proposals or discussion items could be circulated to members for comment or endorsement, and additional meetings might be convened on a need basis. Furthermore, if necessary, TCP could invite representatives from professional or technical association to join the discussion.

7. All correspondences, discussion papers and documents for TCP were for the use of the TCP only and not for disclosure to the public since they contained preliminary proposals yet to be finalized. For speaking to the mass media, the Chairman would be the spokesman for the TCP or he may appoint a Member to speak on his behalf on particular issue. When individual Member was approached by the media, they should refer the enquiries to the Secretary for follow up.

Item 3 – Establishment of Sub-groups of Technical Committee on Plumbing

8. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 2/2019 (re **Appendix 1**) and briefed the Members the proposed establishment of two sub-groups, namely the Materials Sub-group

and Works Sub-group, under the Technical Committee on Plumbing. WSD reiterated that Members were assigned to different sub-groups according to their expertise. WSD also presented the composition of the proposed two sub-groups. All Members agreed with the proposed establishment.

[Post-meeting notes: HKPSWTA clarified their representatives for the Works/Materials Sub-groups were Mr. Chan Wing Kwong and Mr. Lai Ka Yin respectively.]

Item 4 – Mandatory Use of Water Closets registered under Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme

9. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 3/2019 (re **Appendix 2**). WSD proposed to expand the Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) Stage 1 to cover the water closets. WSD also briefed that the details of the flushing apparatuses for the water-closet fitments were to be given in the Form WWO1149 same as the prevailing arrangement. The water closets proposed shall meet the prescribed water efficiency requirement of Grade 1 or Grade 2. A grace period of 12 months would be allowed after the launch of the above proposal, tentatively on 1 September 2019. WSD consulted Members on the proposal. Member's opinions and WSD's replies were as follow:

- (1) Members expressed that single-flush water closet was popularly adopted in disabled toilets. Moreover, automatic sensing flushing apparatuses, which were also single-flush system, were popularly used in toilets of shopping malls, hospitals and clinics for better hygiene. Members anticipated the difficulties in implementing the proposed prescribed requirement of dual-flush system (i.e. water efficiency requirement of Grade 1 or Grade 2) for water closets at the above public premises.

WSD replied that WSD would review if the proposed prescribed requirement of dual-flush system (i.e. water efficiency requirement of Grade 1 or Grade 2) for water closets could be initially implemented in designated part of premises (e.g. domestic premises) while the water efficiency requirement could be relaxed in other premises by allowing the use of either dual-flush or single-flush system (including water efficiency requirement of Grade 3).

- (2) Members stated that the number of water closets registered under WELS available in the market might not be adequate for supporting the implementation of the prescribed requirement and recommended extending the proposed grace period from 1 year to 2 years.

WSD replied they would review the necessity of extending the grace period, or postpone the start date of scheme implementation based on the number of water closets registered under WELS and previous experience of launching Mandatory WELS Stage 1.

[Post-meeting notes: A TCP Paper no. 3/2019 rev1 had been prepared in response to TCP members' comment, and circulated to the Members on 9.10.2019. The changes on the Paper are as follows: -

- (i) The Water Authority will accept the use of water closets meeting the prescribed water efficiency requirement of Grade 3 in some circumstances in the designated parts of premises as detailed below:

<i>Designated parts of premises</i>	<i>Prescribed water efficiency requirements</i>
(a) Toilets of domestic premises	Grade 1 or Grade 2
(b) Toilets of non-domestic premises, without automatic sensing flushing apparatuses	Grade 1 or Grade 2
(c) Toilets of non-domestic premises, with automatic sensing flushing apparatuses	Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3
(d) Disabled toilets of any premises	Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3

- (ii) The start date of launching mandatory use of water closets registered under WELS is postponed from 1 September 2019 to 1 November 2019 tentatively, and a grace period of 12 months will be remained.]

Item 5 – Proposed Revisions on Policy of Meter Sizing and Technical Requirements on Meter Positions for Trade Supply

10. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 4/2019 (re **Appendix 3**) regarding the proposed policy on minimum meter sizing for trades of high water consumption and the technical requirements for meter position. WSD revealed that the rates of consumption were often grossly underestimated in certain trades according to previous record and some of the meters of the relevant trade accounts were found to be undersized after the supply was effected. Those meters could be easily damaged by excessive throughput and therefore require frequent replacements. In view of the above, WSD proposed to impose minimum meter sizing and some

technical requirements on meter positions to facilitate potential meter enlargement for the relevant trade. Member's opinion and WSD's response were summarized below: -

- (1) Some Members considered the proposed minimum meter sizing (i.e. 25mm meter) might not be necessary for some of the small scale restaurants. Therefore, Members suggested that restaurant size should also be taken into account when determining the required minimum size of meter.

WSD stated that exemption from the minimum size requirement would be considered on a case-by-case basis if adequate justification was submitted by the applicant.

- (2) Members expressed concerns on specifying the minimum clearance (from wall and between meters) and the minimum straight pipe length for meter positions. They considered that some of the existing meter rooms might not accommodate the meter positions in accordance with the proposed technical requirements.

WSD replied that the above policy and requirements were applicable only to new applications for water supply with approval of plumbing proposal yet to be given.

- (3) Some Members considered the minimum clearance between meters for some pipe diameter could be reduced.

WSD would review if the minimum clearance between meters could be reduced. WSD would also review the way of indicating the minimum clearance requirements for clarity.

[Post-meeting notes: The proposed policy and requirements had been reviewed. The associated TCP paper had been revised to incorporate members' comments and had been circulated for consideration on 28.8.2019. No further comments had been received.]

Item 6 – Proposed Measures to Further Streamline the Process for Application for Water Supply to Village Type Houses

11. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 5/2019 (re **Appendix 4**) regarding the proposed measures to further streamline the process for application for water supply to village type houses. In order to facilitate the approval process and shorten the approval time, licensed plumbers (LP) submitting an application for water supplies to villages type houses was required to indicate the proposed locations of supply point, connection point and the alignment of

connection pipe by including site location plan and connection layout plan in their plumbing proposal. Members generally supported the proposal.

Item 7 – Proposed Penalty and Demerit Points System for Managing the Performance of Licensed Plumbers

12. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 6/2019 (re **Appendix 5**) regarding the proposed penalty and demerit points system for management of LP. WSD explained that there were two types of plumbing work defects reported in WWO 1008, viz, (a) contravention of Waterworks Ordinance (WWO) / Waterworks Regulations (WWR) and (b) non-compliance with Water Authority (WA)'s requirements. It was proposed to revise WWO 1008 by splitting it into two parts (i.e. Part A and Part B). Part A was for plumbing defects in contravention of WWO/WWR, whereas Part B was for plumbing defects not in compliance with WA's requirements. For each inspection, penalty points would be given for contravention of the WWO/WWR and demerit points would be given for non-compliance with WA's requirements as identified during the inspection. WSD also briefed the proposed mechanism for triggering deliberation of suspension / cancellation of a plumber's licence and explained the more stringent interim inspections for under-performed LPs. Some Members suggested to add a remark to clarify that when more than one contravention of WWO / WWR or non-compliance with WA's requirement of the same item were found in an inspection, the penalty points or demerit points would only be assigned once.

Members generally supported the proposal. Furthermore, WSD would arrange a separate meeting to consult various parties on the detailed amendments to WWO 1008 and would further discuss the issue in detail.

[Post-meeting notes: A separate meeting had been arranged with the representatives from plumbing trade associations to discuss the Penalty and Demerit Point System and the proposed checklist/ WWO1008. The associated annexes had been revised to incorporate members' comments and had been circulated for consideration on 9.8.2019 and 9.9.2019 respectively.]

Item 8 – Any other business

(i) *Installation of security seal to meters of size 40mm and above for prevention of meter tampering*

13. WSD briefed the Members on the proposed new requirement for installation of security seal to water meters of sizes 40mm and above for prevention of meter tampering. LPs would be required to get the security seal when they apply for new water meters and to seal the

meters after installation. They would also be required to submit record photos to WSD together with the meter installation table. The proposed effective date of the new requirements would be 2020 Q1. WSD consulted Members on the proposed scheme. Member requested WSD to provide drawings and details to illustrate the method and procedure to install the security seal. WSD replied that the corresponding details, including circular letters, guideline for installation of security seal to meters would be published in due course. Members generally supported the proposal.

(ii) Electronic submission of applications for GA of plumbing products and applications for plumber's licence

14. WSD briefed the Members that WSD was going to accept electronic submission as an alternative option for applications for General Acceptance (GA) of plumbing products and applications for plumber's licence. WSD also presented a list of documents that electronic submission would be accepted. Members suggested WSD to accept test results from accredited laboratories direct in electronic format via email in addition to WSD's proposed list of documents. WSD would consider this suggestion.

[Post-meeting notes: WSD considered that, with reference to general practice of other departments/organizations, hard-copy of laboratory test report was essential for verification upon e-submission application. Hence, the hardcopy test reports should still be required for the e-submission for GA application.]

Members generally supported the implementation of application for GA of plumbing products and for plumber's licence in the proposed electronic format.

(iii) Time limits for submission of supplementary information or amendments to plumbing proposals in response to WSD comments

15. WSD briefed the Members on the proposal to impose time limits for submission of supplementary information or amendments to plumbing proposals after receiving comments from WSD in order to enhance the efficiency in approving submissions. WSD presented the proposed time limits for issuing reminder letters and cancelling the applications.

16. Members suggested to shorten the time limit for supplementary information submission under “other application (including new buildings)” from 4 months to 3 months and increase the time limit for second reminder from 2 months to 3 months. WSD would consider the suggestions. Members generally supported the proposal.

(iv) Enhanced measures for processing applications for water supply to improvised sprinkler systems

17. WSD briefed the Members on the proposed enhanced measures of processing applications for water supply to improvised sprinkler systems, including a) parallel processing of applicants’ submissions to FSD and their enquiries on water pressure; b) vetting of plumbing proposals before FSD’s endorsement on their eligibility; and c) advancing registration of excavation works for connection of water supply. Members supported the proposed measures.

(v) Requirement of installation of strainers before master meters and check meters position

18. WSD briefed the Members on the proposed requirement of installation of strainers before master meters and check meters. In order to protect the meter and enhance the water quality, WSD proposed to install strainers before master meters and check meters. Members generally supported the proposal.

19. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.
