

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing

Date : 23rd January 2017 (Monday)
Time : 9:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Venue : Room 4819, 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. Simon KWOK Tung Keung	Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Limited (HKGBCAL)
Mr. WONG Wing Wah	Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Limited (RMWCSAL)
Mr. Danny WONG Sing Lam	Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Limited
Mr. LAU Chun Kay	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited (HKFMECL)
Mr. Barry KU Chun Ming	Bun Kee (International) Limited
Mr. Michael CHAN Ka Wah	Kembla (HK) Limited
Mr. Jason CHENG Kai Chun	Shun Lee Building Materials & Sanitary Wares Limited
Mr. Coleman TSE Kin Hung	The British Standards Institution Hong Kong
Mr. LEE Wai Kwok	Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Limited
Mr. Vincent LO Wing Shing	The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong (<i>Ad-hoc</i>)
Mr. LAU Chiu Kwong	Chief Building Services Engineer/1, Architectural Services Department
Mr. WONG Suen Cheung	Senior Building Services Engineer / WQRST, Housing Department
Mr. Edwin TANG Hoi Kwan	Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories West, Buildings

Mr. Kennis WAN Siu Yiu Department (*Ad-hoc*)
Engineer (Fire Service Installations), Fire Services Department (*Ad-hoc*)
Mr. Roger WONG Yan Lok Chief Engineer/Technical Support, WSD
Mr. LEE Tai On Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance, WSD
Mr. Edmond LAU Chin Hung Senior Mechanical Engineer/ Material Control, WSD
Mr. Edwin CHAN Wing Chow Senior Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD

Secretary

Mr. Calvin LAU Cheuk Fung Senior Engineer/Technical Support (1)(Ag), WSD

Note Taker

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

In attendance

Mr. YAU Hau Yin Senior Engineer/NTE (4), WSD
Mr. NGAI Man Fai Senior Engineer/NTW (3), WSD
Mr. IP Chit Ki Senior Engineer/Supply Planning, WSD
Mr. Terry KUNG Ting Wai Mechanical Engineer/ Material Control, WSD
Ms. Irene TONG Sze Yin Engineer/Technical Support (1), WSD
Mr. Robin LAW Yuk Fat Engineer/Technical Support (4), WSD
Mr. WONG Hei Nok Engineer/Technical Support (5), WSD
Mr. Kenny Wong Siu Wai Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC)
Mr. POON Wai Yee Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Limited
Mr. Arthur LI Kam Wong The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering – Hong Kong Branch Limited

Absent with apologies

Mr. Vincent LEE Chi Kin Hong Kong Construction Association, Limited
Mr. TANG Sze Wo The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Company Limited

Action by

Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman introduced all present and welcomed them to the 3rd meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing (TCP). He informed the meeting that Mr. Calvin LAU Cheuk Fung took up the secretary of the TCP.

Agenda Items

Item 1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. Member noted that in line 3 of paragraph 10(7) of the minutes of the 2nd TCP meeting, “paragraph 4.2.2.3” should be revised as “paragraph 4.2.2.2”. The minutes of the 2nd TCP meeting were confirmed with above amendment.

Item 2 – Matters arising from the Last Meeting

(a) Proposals to Streamline Vetting of Plumbing Proposals and Inspection of Plumbing Works (re. para. 3 of 2nd meeting minutes)

(b) Interim Inspection of Concealed Pipes (re. para. 4 of 2nd meeting minutes)

3. WSD said that the enhancement of procedures for interim inspection of underground pipes and final inspection of completed plumbing works had been set out in the WSD Circular Letter (CL) No. 2/2016 issued in June 2016. Up to 18 January 2017, WSD had received 8 cases under the pilot scheme. WSD noted the time stipulated in the CL for handling the inspection process could be achieved. Members were appealed to join the pilot scheme with a view to shortening the overall time for completion of inspection process. WSD would carry out a review before the expiry of the pilot scheme to decide whether the scheme should continue. WSD added that a briefing session would be jointly held by the WSD and Housing Department on 22 February 2017 to introduce the pilot scheme in public rental housing (PRH). Members were welcome to join the briefing session.

(c) Guidelines for submission of plumbing proposal (re. para. 5 of 2nd meeting minutes)

4. WSD said that a consultant has been engaged to evaluate the situation of plumbing proposal submission and to review the latest guidelines in foreign countries. WSD would seek Members' views on this issue in due course.

(d) Implementation of Recommendations of WSD Task Force on Investigation of Excessive Lead Content in Drinking Water (re. para. 7 of 2nd meeting minutes)

5. Regarding the “Use of pipe materials free from risk of misuse of leaded solder”, WSD said that this item was a matter arising from the meetings of TCP Materials Subgroup which involved the testing of stainless steel pipes and fittings. This item would be presented to the meeting under agenda item No. 4(3).

(e) Guideline for updating “List of British Standards applicable to Inside Service and Fire Service” (re. para. 11(4),(5)& (7) of 2nd meeting minutes)

6. WSD said that the guideline had been renamed as “Good Practice Guide” (GPG). Members' comments received in the 2nd TCP meeting had been taken into account in revising

the GPG as follows:-

- (i) in paragraph 4.1.3, the word “independent” was deleted;
- (ii) the wording in paragraphs 4.2.2.2 and 4.2.2.3 was revised to clarify that the project team should attend 100% checking for the non-destructive tests; and
- (iii) the numbers of random samples of essential components delivered to site for testing would be decided by the project team, contractor and licensed plumber (LP).

7. Regarding the training materials for the GPG, WSD and Vocation Training Council (VTC) were jointly preparing some digital audio files to introduce the GPG. WSD would send the training materials to Members and relevant stakeholders in due course.

8. WSD said that the revised GPG was supported by the Construction Industry Council (CIC). WSD and CIC would jointly hold a press conference in March 2017 to publish the GPG.

(f) Mandatory Use of Designated Products registered under Water Efficiency Labeling Scheme (re. para. 15(12) of 2nd meeting minutes)

9. WSD briefed the meeting about the CL No. 2/2017 issued on 20 January 2017 regarding the prescribed water efficiency requirements for proposed fittings in inside service submitted under Form WWO 46. WSD said that the requirements of using designated products would take effect from 1 February 2017 with a one-year grace period. Upon the expiry of such grace period (i.e. starting from 1 February 2018), the use of designated products would become fully mandatory. However, WSD would consider granting exemption in accordance with the criteria stipulated in Annex A to the CL No. 2/2017. WSD said that there would be two briefing sessions on 23 February 2017 and 6 March 2017 to introduce more details of the scheme. All Members were welcome to the briefing sessions.

10. WSD expressed regret that the CL nos. 3/2016, 1/2017 and 2/2017 had not been mailed to HKGBCAL, RMWCSAL and HKFMECL before because the distribution lists of the CLs were outdated. WSD added that the soft copies of CLs had been sent to HKGBCAL, RMWCSAL and HKFMECL and the distribution lists had been updated accordingly.

(g) Guideline for adopting latest edition of British Standard (re. para. 19 & 20 of 2nd meeting minutes)

11. WSD said that the five British Standards (BSs) which had been endorsed in the 2nd TCP meeting had been effective on 3 October 2016.

(h) Appeal Mechanism under Point Penalty System (re. para. 22 of 2nd meeting minutes)

12. WSD would keep in view on whether the trial appeal mechanism was to be cancelled, to be adopted as a standing mechanism, or to be retained for one year for a further review upon the expiry of the trial in June 2017. KIV

(i) Review of Standards and Requirements for Plumbing Installation (re. para. 24 of 2nd meeting minutes)

13. WSD said that a consultant had been engaged to review the standards and requirements for plumbing installation and the review would focus on the technical requirements rather than submission requirements. WSD would update Members on the status of the technical review in due course.

(j) Metal Leaching Test on Plumbing Products based on AS/NZS 4020 (re. para. 25 of 2nd meeting minutes)

14. Regarding the trial of the metal leaching test on plumbing products based on AS/NZS 4020, WSD said that testing had been carried out on the samples collected from the suppliers. A meeting among WSD, the suppliers and the laboratories had been held to discuss the proposal on the metal leaching test of electroplated plumbing products. WSD would report the findings in the next meeting of the TCP Materials subgroup.

Item 3 – Matters arising from the Meeting of TCP Works Subgroup

(a) Manpower Review of Licensed Plumbers and Plumbing Workers

15. WSD took the meeting through TCP papers no. 1/2017 (re. **Appendix 1**). HKPC presented a study about identifying the current LP manpower situation. Members' opinions and WSD's replies were as follows:

(1) Members asked if LPs in public works projects were incorporated.

HKPC replied that the study for "active LP" covered both the public/private projects.

(2) Members enquired about the definition of alteration and addition (A&A) works in the study.

WSD replied that the definition of A&A works in HKPC's study was the same as the definition of repair, maintenance, minor alteration, and addition (RMAA) works in CIC's study and the RMAA works covered the replumbing works but not domestic renovation works.

- (3) Members queried if LPs involved in some maintenance works were included.

HKPC replied that LPs involving minor works which did not require obtaining approval from WSD were also included in the database population for random selection for interview. The interviewees were randomly selected regardless whether they had taken part in supervising or carrying out any plumbing works. Therefore, the results of the interview were representative and reliable.

- (4) Member noted that only about 600-700 out of some 3,000 LPs had submission records to WSD and asked whether the remaining LPs had not taken part in any plumbing works.

WSD emphasized that “active LPs” were not only responsible for making submissions, but also involved in procurement of plumbing materials or supervising the plumbing works on site, etc.

- (5) Member noted that there were few young people enter other industries as well. Member also expressed concerns that the future tightened legislative amendment might deter young people from joining the industries.

WSD replied that members’ concern was understood and future legislative amendment would cater for it.

- (6) Members suggested WSD to consider in the future legislative amendment requesting LPs to attend mandatory CPD courses if they had no submission records to WSD for a certain period.

WSD replied that the voluntary CPD scheme would be reviewed in 2018 and mandatory CPD would be considered afterwards.

- (7) Members opined that it might be too difficult for candidates to pass both the craft certificate in plumbing and pipefitting and the certificate in plumbing services before they could apply as an LP. WSD replied that it was necessary to ensure LPs equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills, but WSD would review the licensing requirements in due course.

16. In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 1/2017.

Item 4 – Matters arising from the Meeting of TCP Materials Subgroup

17. The Chairman said that the following items had been recommended by the Materials Subgroup for the consideration of the meeting.

Implementation of New Measures on Enhancing Plumbing Material Control

18. WSD took the meeting through TCP paper No. 2/2017 (re. **Appendix 2**) and presented the proposed new measures on enhancing plumbing material control under the General Acceptance (GA) system including the GA+ system, labeling scheme for water taps and mixers and the administrative surveillance programme. Members' opinions and WSD's replies were as follows:

- (1) Regarding the administrative surveillance programme, members enquired whether the installed pipes and fittings would be affected if their GAs were subsequently withdrawn by WSD.

WSD replied that the installed pipes and fittings would not be affected if the relevant WWO 46 Pt. I, II and Annex to WWO 46 had been approved by WSD.

- (2) Members opined that the information of the plumbing products which had failed the compliance test should be announced to the public before carrying out the re-test by the concerned GA applicant. Members also suggested WSD to put a star (*) to indicate the plumbing products which had failed the compliance test. Members noted that some non-compliance of plumbing products might in relation to the technical requirements such as pipe thickness rather than water safety. Members also opined that from the contract administration point of view, the client/consultant would not choose a plumbing product which the WSD had given a star (*) to indicate its failure of the compliance test.

WSD replied that there might be variations among different products of the same brand. Therefore, WSD would rely on the results of the re-test on three further samples of the same model to justify the results of the compliance test. In case WSD was of the opinion that the plumbing products had failed the surveillance check, WSD would remove the GA granted to the plumbing product and announce the relevant information on WSD webpage accordingly.

- (3) Members enquired about the location to collect random samples by WSD from the retail market.

WSD replied that random samples would be collected through the GA applicants in the initial phase and the collection of samples would be extended to construction site in a later phase.

(4) Regarding the five samples submitted by the contractor to proof compliance with relevant standards, members suggested and WSD agreed to consider adding a percentage as an upper limit.

(5) WSD proposed and members agreed that WSD would select three members from the TCP group in the appeal board panel for the establishment of an appeal board if required. The selection of TCP members in the appeal board would be on a rotation basis. The appeal board panel would consist of all the members from the ECPM and the TCP except government officers.

19. In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 2/2017.

New Versions of BS:

Proposed items to be reported in Annex to WWO46 – Stainless Steel Fittings; and
Strengthening Material Aspect of WRAS & Kitemark

20. WSD took the meeting through TCP paper No. 3/2017 (**re. Appendix 3**). WSD said that the adoption of the following four BSs had been supported in the meeting of the TCP Materials Subgroup:

(1) BS EN 12163 : 2016

(2) BS EN 12164 : 2016

(3) BS EN 12165 : 2016

(4) BS EN 12167 : 2016

WSD

After explaining the changes, WSD recommended the adoption of the updated BSs for the meeting's endorsement. The meeting endorsed the recommendation for WSD's follow up.

21. WSD proposed and members agreed to include Stainless Steel fittings including tee, bend, reducer and coupler as an items to be reported in Annex to WWO46 with effect from 1 July 2017.

22. WSD proposed and members endorsed a top-up arrangement to include the testing of chemical composition for the metallic components of the pipes and fittings by accredited laboratories on top of WRAS and Kitemark certification. WSD added that the top-up

arrangement would not be required if the applicant had provided WSD with the chemical test certificate for metallic material along with the WRAS and Kitemark certification.

23. In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 3/2017.

Item 5 – Installation of Flow Restrictor for temporary Construction Supply and high Draw-off non-Domestic Water Supply

24. WSD took the meeting through TCP paper No. 4/2017 (re. **Appendix 4**). WSD proposed measures to prevent damage to meter due to undersize and to protect water supply network against excessively high consumption. Members' opinions and WSD's replies were as follows:

- (1) Members opined that the time taken by WSD for handling the application of temporary construction supply was very long and suggested WSD to consider issuing a separate water meter with a view to shortening the time for application.

WSD replied that the applicant might consider applying a portable meter from WSD. WSD would provide the concerned members with the relevant information after the meeting.

- (2) Members enquired whether WSD would take longer time to verify the information provided by the applicants under the proposed measures.

WSD replied that the application process would not be lengthened if the information provided by the applicants was sufficient and in order.

- (3) Members suggested WSD to consider issuing more than one water meters to the applicants of temporary construction supply if considered necessary.

WSD replied that there was no restriction on the numbers of water meters issued by WSD to the applicants of temporary construction supply. Nonetheless, WSD would review this issue.

- (4) Members suggested WSD to consider issuing a larger water meter or more than one water meters for the application of water supply to multiple swimming pools. Members also asked the principle for estimating the water consumption for refilling a swimming pool.

WSD replied that the enlargement of water meter for swimming pool might lead to a weak water supply to the concerned area. As such, WSD proposed to install a flow restrictor with a view to limiting the draw-off rate of water meters according to their sizes.

25. In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 4/2017.

Item 6 – AOB

Enhancement Measures for Processing Applications for Water Supplies

1. WSD took the meeting through the draft WSD Circular Letter No. 3/2017 (**re. Appendix 5**) and presented the enhancement measures for processing applications for water supply. Members' opinions and WSD's replies were as follows:

(1) Members opined if the submission of pipe alignment plan to WSD was necessary under all circumstances, the words “如適用” in paragraph 6(ii) should be deleted.

WSD agreed to deleted the words “如適用” in paragraph 6(ii) in the CL.

(2) Member opined that the scale of 1:1000 for the “building layout plan” in Appendix A was too small to show the details of the building.

WSD replied that the scale of 1:1000 should refer to the “site layout plan”. The typo would be revised accordingly.

(3) Regarding the submission arrangement for applications for water supplies, members proposed and WSD agreed to specify a date in mid February in the CL after which the drop boxes at WSD regional offices would be removed.

26. In conclusion, the meeting endorsed the draft CL No. 3/2017.

Next Meeting

1. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.
