

## **Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing**

Date : 22 November 2017 (Wednesday)  
Time : 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Venue : Room 4505A, 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. Danny WONG Sing Lam	Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Limited
Mr. Eric YUNG Chun Tang	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. Jason CHENG Kai Chun	Shun Lee Building Materials & Sanitary Wares Limited
Mr. WONG Ka Man	Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Limited
Ms. Davis LEUNG	The British Standards Institution Hong Kong
Mr. Vincent LO Wing Shing	The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong ( <i>Ad-hoc</i> )
Ms. Karen CHENG Ka Lai	Chief Building Services Engineer/4, Architectural Services Department
Mr. YAU Kwan Shing	Chief Building Services Engineer/2, Housing Department
Mr. CHENG Sui On	Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Licensing & Certification), Fire Service Department ( <i>Ad-hoc</i> )
Mr. WONG Yan Lok, Roger	Chief Engineer/Technical Supports, WSD
Mr. LEE Tai On	Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance, WSD

Mr. Edwin CHAN Wing Chow	Senior Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD
Mr. Edmond LAU Chin Hung	Senior Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD

Secretary

Mr. Calvin LAU Cheuk Fung	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. VY Ek Chin	Chief Assistant Secretary (Works) 4, Development Bureau
Mr. Roger LEUNG	Senior Building Services Engineer/C3, Housing Department
Mr. WONG Ping Fai	Plumbing Technology Student Association
Mr. POON Wai Yee	Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Limited
Mr. Terry KUNG Ting Wai	Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD
Mr. Milton LAW Wai Ho	Engineer/Legislative Review (2), WSD
Mr. Tenny FU Sau Bong	Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD
Mr. Daniel YEUNG Chin Ho	Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD
Mr. WONG Hei Nok	Engineer/Technical Support (5), WSD

Absent with apologies

Mr. Vincent LEE Chi Kin	Hong Kong Construction Association, Limited
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**Action by**

**Opening Remarks**

1. The Chairman introduced all Members and welcomed them to the 7th meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing (TCP).

**Agenda Items**

**Item 1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

2. The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> TCP meeting were confirmed without amendment.

## **Item 2 – Matters arising from the Last Meeting**

### *(i) Surveillance Programme for the General Acceptance System (re. para. 3 of 6th meeting minutes)*

3. WSD briefed the meeting that after incorporating Members' comment, the Circular Letter No. 8/2017 regarding Surveillance Programme for the General Acceptance (GA) System had been issued on 16 September 2017.

### *(ii) Draft WSD Circular Letter No. 8/2017 - New Commissioning Requirements for New Plumbing Works (re. Para.4 of 6th meeting minutes)*

4. WSD briefed the meeting that after incorporating Members' comment, the Circular Letter No. 9/2017 regarding New Commissioning Requirements for New Plumbing Works had been issued on 26 September 2017.

### *(iii) Voluntary GA\* Scheme on Quality Plumbing Materials*

5. WSD briefed the meeting that the GA\* Scheme had been commenced since 17 November 2017. WSD had announced the GA\* Scheme on WSD's webpage and notified the GA applicants through email accordingly. The details of the GA\* Scheme including the application procedure, testing requirements and the GA\* products status could be found on WSD's webpage. WSD added that for plumbing products already obtained GA\*, they were not required to carry out the pre-treatment process for online re-plumbing works as required in Circular Letter No. 5/2017.

## **Item 3 – Updates on Surveillance Programme**

6. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 15/2017 (re. Appendix 1) regarding the Surveillance Programme. Member's opinion and WSD's reply were as follows:

- (1) Members asked about the numbers of approved inspection bodies/laboratories and their capacities for handling the works related to the Surveillance Programme.

WSD replied that there were 4 numbers of inspection bodies registered under the Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (HKIAS) and more than 10 numbers of approved laboratories accredited by the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS). WSD added that a meeting with the concerned parties had been held and they said that additional resource could be deployed to enhance the service if necessary.

- (2) Members expressed concerns on some partially completed plumbing works which would be covered up/concealed after obtaining WSD's approval for completion of works, the whole plumbing project was yet to be completed.

WSD replied that if the plumbing works had obtained WSD's approval for partial completion of works, the completed plumbing materials had been accepted by WSD.

- (3) Members asked about the announcement mechanism of the Surveillance Programme.

WSD replied that the announcement mechanism had been stipulated in the Circular Letter No. 8/2017. In general, WSD would notify the relevant GA applicant in written and the information would also be released to the public in WSD webpage.

- (4) Members opined that if the GA of a plumbing material had been suspended by WSD, the installation of that plumbing material should also be suspended on site. Members also suggested WSD implementing a fast-track approval for the replacement of plumbing materials where its GA was suspended.

WSD replied that if the GA of a plumbing material had been suspended:-

- (i) if the relevant WWO 46 Part III had not been issued by WSD, the plumbing material would not be accepted by WSD. WSD would speed up the replacement of plumbing products where its GA was suspended;
  - (ii) the plumbing material would be accepted by WSD if there was relevant documentary evidence that the purchase of the plumbing material was before its GA suspension; and
    - (a) if it could be proved that the batch of material used in the plumbing project met the statutory standards by means of a "Project Compliance Test (PCT)"; or
    - (b) if the "Plumbing Material Quality Control System (PMQCS) had been implemented upfront at project level.
- (5) Members opined that the cutoff date on 1 January 2018 for implementing the new measures was too tight and suggested 1 July 2018 as the cutoff date.

WSD would consider revising the cutoff date and inform Members the revised

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cutoff date in due course.

- (6) Regarding PMQCS, Members suggested using 0.1% as the sampling rate and deleting the wording “at least three”. WSD

WSD agreed to review the wording “at least three” in the sampling rate. WSD added that the sampling would be according to product models regardless of their sizes. WSD

- (7) Members suggested WSD carrying out offsite sampling.

WSD replied that the sampling should preferably be conducted on a project basis. WSD might consider the offsite option if the traceability issue could be resolved.

The meeting generally supported the proposed new measures. WSD would seek Members’ comment on the draft WSD Circular Letter in due course.

#### **Item 4 – Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong**

7. WSD brief the meeting regarding WSD’s Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong.

#### **Item 5 –Works of Minor Nature**

8. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 14/2017 (re. Appendix 2) regarding the works of minor nature. Member’s opinion and WSD’s reply were as follows:

- (1) Members opined that the stipulated 3 meters length for the replacement of communal water pipes was too short and suggested extending the length to 6 meters.

WSD replied that the 3-meter length had been made reference to the exempted works under the provisions of “Designated workers for designated skills”.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 14/2017.

## **Item 6 – New Master Metering Requirement for Fresh Water, Temporary Mains-water for Flushing (TMF) Inside Service and Fire Service**

9. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 16/2017 (re. Appendix 3) regarding the new master metering requirement. Member's opinion and WSD's reply were as follows:

- (1) Members asked about the effectiveness of using maser meters to check the leakage condition in housing estates.

WSD replied that the leakage condition of housing estates could be revealed by the discrepancies ratio (DR) which was calculated by the readings of master meters and the sum of readings of separate meters. WSD had kept monitoring the DR as well as the leakage condition of some large housing estates.

- (2) Members asked whether it was a mandatory requirement to construct a bypass for a master meter.

WSD replied that the construction of a bypass for master meter was not a mandatory requirement.

- (3) Members suggested WSD specifying the minimum distance between the building boundary and lot boundary under which the construction of a master meter room/chamber was not required.

WSD would consider the suggestion of specifying a minimum distance.

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- (4) Members asked whether the check meter would be exposed or underground.

WSD replied that there was no restriction on this issue.

- (5) Members opined that for a single block building with water supply pipe of size 150mm or above, it would be difficult to reserve space for constructing a master meter room. Members added that village houses would have the similar restriction. Members suggested providing some examples of single block buildings and village houses for discussion with WSD in separate meetings.

WSD replied that separate meetings would be arranged with Members concerned to examine the restriction in single block buildings and village houses for constructing master meter room.

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**Item 7 – AOB**

WSD Circular Letter no. 2/2017

10. Regarding WSD Circular Letter no. 2/2017, Members were reminded that, “*the fully mandatory requirement of using designated products would be applicable to all proposed plumbing works submitted using Form WWO 46 on or after 1 February 2018.*”

11. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

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