

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing

Date : 5 October 2018 (Friday)
Time : 2:30 p.m. – 6:30 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. Eric Lai Ka Yin	Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Limited
Mr Eric WONG Siu Wing	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. Kenneth WONG Siu Keung	The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Company Limited
Mr. Ating CHENG Li Hung	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. 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. LEE Wai Kwok	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>)
Mr. YAU Kwan Shing	Chief Building Services Engineer/2, Housing Department
Mr. WONG Yan Lok, Roger	Chief Engineer/Technical Supports, WSD
Mr. CHO Ping Ho	Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance, WSD
Mr. CHAN Wai Lam	Engineer, Fire Service Department (<i>Ad-hoc</i>)
Ms. CHENG Ka Lai	Chief Building Services Engineer, Architectural Services Department
Mr. LO Kin Pong	Senior Building Services Engineer, Housing Department
Mr. Calvin LAU Cheuk Fung	Senior Engineer/Technical Support (2), WSD
Mr. Edmond LAU Chin Hung	Senior Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD
Mr. Ricky LUI Wing Kit	Senior Mechanical Engineer/Material Testing Lab, WSD

Mr. WONG Ka Wai, Gary Building Surveyor, Buildings Department(*Ad-hoc*)

Secretary

Mr. Tenny FU Sau Bong Senior Engineer/Technical Support (1) (Ag.), WSD

Note Taker

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

In attendance

Mr. Terry KUNG Ting Wai Mechanical Engineer/Material Control, WSD

Mr. Daniel YEUNG Chin Ho Engineer/Technical Support (4), WSD

Ms. Yannes WONG Chung Yan Mechanical Engineer/Material Testing Laboratory, WSD

Absent with apologies

Mr. Ivan HO Man Yiu The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Mr. Vincent HO Kui Yip The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Mr. CHENG Wai Cheong Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Limited

Action by

Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman introduced the new Members and welcomed all Members to the 9th meeting of Technical Committee on Plumbing (TCP).

Agenda Items

Item 1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the 8th TCP meeting were confirmed without amendment.

Item 2 – Matters arising from the Last Meeting

(i) Approval process for application for water supply for new buildings adopting modular integrated construction (MiC) method (re. Para. 6(2) and 6(4) of 8th meeting minutes)

3. WSD briefed the meeting that some projects had been selected as pilot projects for the approval process for application for water supply for new buildings adopting MiC method.

The approval process would be promulgated via WSD circular letter which would be circulated to Members for comment before issue. Member asked whether it was required to employ the same licensed plumber (LP) to work in Hong Kong and the prefabrication factory. WSD replied that there was no such requirement. WSD added that WSD would engage consultants to conduct inspections on behalf of WSD on the plumbing works to be concealed and covered up at the prefabrication factory.

(ii) Control measures of materials installed/used in potable water tanks of inside service (re. Para. 9(5) of 8th meeting minutes)

4. WSD briefed the meeting that after the 8th TCP Meeting, separate meeting with relevant stakeholders had been held to further discuss the details of the proposed control measures of materials installed/used in potable water tanks of inside service. The proposal had been further refined taking into account the comment received in the meeting and proposed to be implemented on 1 October 2019. Member's opinion and WSD's reply were as follows:

- (1) Members asked whether the minor components which would be in contact with water in water tank should also be declared in the Annex to WWO46.

WSD replied that only the main body of the component was required to be declared in the Annex to WWO46.

- (2) Members opined that in general LP was not involved in the construction of water tank which should be undertaken by the Authorized Person.

WSD replied that under the Waterworks Ordinance (WWO), tank was classified as fitting. Therefore, LP should undertake the construction of water tanks.

- (3) Members opined that water tank should not be classified as fitting under the WWO and its construction should not be undertaken by LP.

WSD would seek legal advice to confirm whether water tank was fitting under the WWO and revert to the meeting in due course.

WSD

(iii) Audit of water sampling tests for commissioning of unoccupied new buildings/village houses (re. Para.13(1) of 8th meeting minutes)

5. WSD said that the proposal of random audit on water sampling tests carried out by accredited laboratories for commissioning of unoccupied buildings was under review. WSD

would brief Members on the updated audit arrangement in due course.

WSD

Item 3 – Streamlining Workflow for Effecting Water Supply in Village Houses after Disinfection

6. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 11/2018 (re. **Appendix 2**) regarding the proposed streamline workflow to ensure water can be effected within 7 days from the successful disinfection and water sampling in village houses. Members opined that it involved public holiday, the 7-day requirement could hardly be fulfilled. WSD said that in case satisfactory installation of meters with records could not be completed by the concerned LP before 4:30 pm on day 5, the LP was required to conduct sufficient flushing at the connection point and then carry out a simple in-situ test. The above measures would serve as an alternative to re-testing of water samples.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 11/2018.

Item 4 – Voluntary Low Leaching Plumbing System Recognition Scheme

7. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 12/2018 (re. **Appendix 3**) regarding the implementation details of the proposed voluntary low leaching plumbing system recognition scheme. Member's opinion and WSD's reply were as follows:

- (1) Members asked the numbers of flushing required under the scheme.

WSD said a single flushing was required before occupation of the premises.

- (2) Members asked WSD the timing to issue the certificate.

WSD said after the applicant had submitted application for the scheme, WSD would issue a provisional certificate to the applicant. After the completion of construction, WSD would verify that all the requirements had been fulfilled before issue certificate to the applicant.

- (3) Members opined that the certificate might include platinum rank for the highest scores.

WSD would consider the suggestion.

- (4) Members expressed concerns on the numbers of flushing required to be carried out not more than 2 weeks before handing over of the premises to the occupants.

WSD said that the requirement only referred to the first occupation of the premises.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed TCP paper No. 12/2018.

Item 5 – Handling of Plumbing Materials with Special GA Status under Surveillance Programme

8. WSD took the meeting through TCP Paper no. 10/2018 (re. **Appendix 1**) regarding the arrangement for handling plumbing materials with a status of “GA Suspended”, “GA Reinstated” or “GA Removed” under the surveillance programme. Member’s opinion and WSD’s reply were as follows:

- (1) Members asked the numbers of Independent Inspection Body (IIB).

WSD replied that at present there were 4 numbers of IIB registered under the Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (“HKIAS”) which involved 17 numbers of staff to act on behalf of the WSD to conduct Project Surveillance.

- (2) Members asked the sampling rate under the project surveillance.

WSD replied that the sampling and testing of material samples should be taken from all consignments of the subject plumbing material upon delivery to the site or off-site storage.

- (3) Members asked the rationale of sampling rate according to the model types instead of the sizes of plumbing product.

WSD said that the production workflow for different sizes of plumbing product of same model should be identical. Therefore, the sampling rate should be according to the model type rather than the size of plumbing product.

- (4) Members opined that WSD might consider using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) for collection of samples.

WSD would consider the suggestion.

- (5) Members opined that failure in testing under the project surveillance programme might lead to contractual claim. Members also expressed concerns on the responsibility for the quality of plumbing products among different stakeholders.

WSD said that the effective date for the project surveillance had been designed to be the same as the tender date to allow sufficient time for the inclusion of project surveillance into the contract terms. WSD had also been carrying out legislation review regarding the liability for the quality of plumbing products and would revert to the meeting in due course.

- (6) Members expressed concern on the implementation date of three months or later after the issue date of the relevant Circular Letter. Member said that 3 months might not be sufficient for their internal consultation and preparation of tender document.

WSD would review the implementation date of the surveillance programme.

- (7) Members expressed their “no objection” to the proposal on the basis that if a valid Project Surveillance was in place in a plumbing projects, the plumbing contractors should be protected from any statutory and contractual liabilities even the GA status of the material used in the project had been changed to GA “Suspended” or “Removed”.

WSD opined that the proposed measures of WSD regarding the handling of plumbing materials under Surveillance Programme should not prevail over contractual requirement.

In conclusion, WSD would consider the above members’ comment and finalise the draft Circular Letter for comment in due course.

WSD

Item 6 – AOB

Circulation of TCP papers to Members

9. Members asked WSD to allow more time to circulate TCP papers to Members for

comment before the TCP meeting. WSD noted.

10. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.
