Over the years, the Water Supplies Department ("WSD") has been supplying drinking water in full compliance with the World Health Organization’s Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality ("WHO Guidelines"). In the wake of the excess lead found in drinking water in Hong Kong, a Commission of Inquiry into the incident of excess lead in drinking water ("CoI") was appointed by the Chief Executive in Council to inquire into the incident of excess lead in drinking water in 2015 and subsequently by a Water Quality Monitoring Programme ("WQMP") in order to review the current drinking water standards and practices (WHO’s metal parameters) and enhance the current drinking water quality monitoring programme to obtain local drinking water quality data at consumers’ taps in the territory.

In order to maintain the drinking water quality in the territory and to review the drinking water standards, the current water monitoring programme will be extended to extend its coverage to include drinking-water at consumers’ taps.

### 1. Drinking Water Standards and Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring Programme

**CoI**

The CoI was appointed by the Chief Executive in Council to inquire into the incident of excess lead found in drinking water. The CoI was comprised of three overseas experts from the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia and two local experts. The CoI was established to conduct the drinking water quality in Hong Kong.

**IEP**

The IEP consists of three overseas experts from the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia and two local experts. The IEP was established to provide advice on drinking water quality.

### 2. Sampling Programme

To extend the drinking water quality monitoring programme to obtain local drinking water quality data at consumers’ taps in the territory in order to monitor the drinking water quality in the territory.

**Sampling Protocol**

- To undertake comprehensive review of overseas standards and practices (WHO’s metal parameters).
- To extend the drinking water quality monitoring programme to obtain local drinking water quality data at consumers’ taps in the territory.

**Sampling Results**

- To review the data on drinking water standards and practices at drinking-water at consumers’ premises.

### 3. Water Quality Monitoring Programme

- To undertake comprehensive review of overseas standards and practices (WHO’s metal parameters).
- To extend the drinking water quality monitoring programme to obtain local drinking water quality data at consumers’ taps in the territory.

**Sampling Results**

- To review the data on drinking water standards and practices at drinking-water at consumers’ premises.

### 4. Current Water Quality Monitoring Programme

- To adopt WHO Guidelines as the drinking water standards for safeguarding the drinking water quality in Hong Kong.
- To undertake comprehensive review of overseas standards and practices (WHO’s metal parameters).
- To extend the drinking water quality monitoring programme to obtain local drinking water quality data at consumers’ taps in the territory.

**Sampling Results**

- To review the data on drinking water standards and practices at drinking-water at consumers’ premises.

### 5. Components

- **Planning**
- **Sampling**
- **Data Analysis**
- **Report Writing**

**Sampling**

- To undertake comprehensive review of overseas standards and practices (WHO’s metal parameters).
- To extend the drinking water quality monitoring programme to obtain local drinking water quality data at consumers’ taps in the territory.

**Data Analysis**

- To review the data on drinking water standards and practices at drinking-water at consumers’ premises.

**Report Writing**

- To undertake comprehensive review of overseas standards and practices (WHO’s metal parameters).
- To extend the drinking water quality monitoring programme to obtain local drinking water quality data at consumers’ taps in the territory.

**Sampling Results**

- To review the data on drinking water standards and practices at drinking-water at consumers’ premises.
PLUMBING MATERIAL CONTROL AND COMMISSIONING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS

WSD has proposed legislative amendments in April 2017 to define the responsibilities of licensed plumbers (LPs), including setting out clearly the duties of LPs, and to define the responsibilities of relevant parties responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of inside services, including possible responsibilities of relevant parties responsible for the inspection and approval of inside services.

WSD has implemented water safety plans for buildings with a view to reducing metal leaching from new pipes and fittings since August 2015; and is in the process of improving material standards in consultation with the revised plumbing regulations for implementation with effect from July 2017.

PLUMBING MATERIAL CONTROL AND DESIGN

WSD has revised the plumbing material standards in the Waterworks and Sewerage Manual to strengthen water safety in inside services. More stringent control measures and guidelines over plumbing systems have been implemented progressively since 2015 to strengthen water safety in inside services.

The General Acceptance (GA) system of WSD which pre approves plumbing products based on statutory control standards has been introduced in April 2017 on a risk based approach taking into account the risk of different materials and their applications. The system aims at ensuring that products are fit for purpose in order to safeguard water quality. WSD will compile a technical handbook on plumbing works in early 2018 to provide more comprehensive information in a user friendly manner for reference by the plumbing industry in the design of plumbing installations.

The following tools have been developed:

2. The Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings Fresh Water Supply System (QWSS-BFSS) - a voluntary scheme for building owners and property managers to develop and implement their own WSP for buildings with a view to reducing metal leaching from new pipes and fittings.

WSP has been introduced in April 2017 to require building owners and property managers to develop and implement their own WSP for buildings with a view to reducing metal leaching from new pipes and fittings.

The following tools have been developed:

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WSP will be required for buildings with a water supply system with four or more water taps or mixers, and for buildings with a water supply system for at least 100 people, to enter into the Water Supply Scheme for Buildings Fresh Water Supply System (WSP) which is a mandatory requirement for all new buildings.

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