# 2. Hong Kong Drinking Water Standards and Enhanced Programme

WSD has adopted an expert consultant to conduct the appropriate, reliable and practical audit of two international organisations (i.e. the World Health Organization (“WHO”) and the European Union (“EU”)) on seven overseas countries (i.e. the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Japan, Germany, Italy and Spain) on establishing their drinking water standards.

### Possible Sources and Risk of Contamination of the Six Metals in Internal Plumbing Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>The risk of exceedance for chromism in solders through (i) material control; (ii) water sampling test.</td>
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### Water Quality Monitoring Programme (“Enhanced Programme”)

WSD has simultaneously implemented a water quality monitoring programme by taking water samples annually from water treatment works, service reservoirs, connection points and some randomly programme by taking water samples annually from water treatment plants, service reservoirs, connection points and some randomly programme by taking water samples annually from water treatment works, service reservoirs, connection points and some randomly located premises. Participating premises are randomly selected from the invited premises. Details of the Hong Kong Drinking Water Standards and Enhanced Programme are provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

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**Standards**

- **Cr**: 10 µg/L HKDWS
- **Cd**: 0.5 µg/L HKDWS
- **Ni**: 5 µg/L HKDWS
- **Pb**: 10 µg/L HKDWS
- **Sb**: 0.5 µg/L HKDWS
- **Cu**: 10 µg/L HKDWS

**Enhanced Programme**

- The Enhanced Programme monitors the quality of drinking water at the consumers’ taps. Participating premises are randomly selected from the invited premises. The selection process is accomplished by an independent consultant appointed by the government. The consultant will visit all premises that have received the invitation letters under the Enhanced Programme. The WSD will send a sampling team for each visit comprising a WSD water sampler and a licensed plumber appointed by the consultant. The sampling team will visit the premises during daytime (i.e. from 9:00am to 5:00pm). The sampling staff will wear uniforms and staff identification cards.

**Participation for the Enhanced Programme**

- The Enhanced Programme is by invitation only and the participation is voluntary. The participating premises will greatly help WSD to improve the drinking water quality and quality of life. The government adopts the WHO’s guideline values (“GVs”)/provisional guideline values (“PGVs”) as HKDWS for these remaining parameters. In addition, the government will consult the WHO’s guideline values (“GVs”)/provisional guideline values (“PGVs”) for the remaining parameters in the WHO Guidelines. Having taken into account the expert consultant’s findings and consulted the registered consumers (“RC(s)”) and the General Councils/Property Management agencies, if any, the government will adopt the corresponding WHO’s guideline values (“GVs”)/provisional guideline values (“PGVs”).

**Participation for the Six Metals**

- The participation for the six metals is by invitation only and it is on a voluntary basis. The participating premises will greatly help WSD to improve the drinking water quality and quality of life. The government adopts the WHO’s guideline values (“GVs”)/provisional guideline values (“PGVs”) for the remaining parameters in the WHO Guidelines. Having taken into account the expert consultant’s findings and consulted the registered consumers (“RC(s)”) and the General Councils/Property Management agencies, if any, the government will adopt the corresponding WHO’s guideline values (“GVs”)/provisional guideline values (“PGVs”).

**Two-Tier Sampling Protocol for Six Metals**

- The Enhanced Programme is by invitation only and the participation is voluntary. The participating premises will greatly help WSD to improve the drinking water quality and quality of life. The government adopts the WHO’s guideline values (“GVs”)/provisional guideline values (“PGVs”) for the remaining parameters in the WHO Guidelines. Having taken into account the expert consultant’s findings and consulted the registered consumers (“RC(s)”) and the General Councils/Property Management agencies, if any, the government will adopt the corresponding WHO’s guideline values (“GVs”)/provisional guideline values (“PGVs”).

**On the Day of Visit and Sampling**

- The sampling premises will visit the premises during daytime (i.e. from 9:00am to 5:00pm). The sampling staff will wear uniforms and staff identification cards.

- **Time**
  - **9:00am to 10:00am:** WSD will conduct a 30-second (“30S”) sampling at the tap. If consent is obtained from the occupier during the visit, the sampling staff will collect water samples from any of the kitchen cups and/or any water tap used for potable purpose.
  - **10:00am to 11:00am:** The sampling premises will visit the premises during daytime (i.e. from 9:00am to 5:00pm). The sampling staff will wear uniforms and staff identification cards.

- **Sampling Equipment**
  - **WSD Water Sampler:** A WSD water sampler will be used to collect water samples for any of the kitchen cups and/or any water tap used for potable purpose. The sampling premises will visit the premises during daytime (i.e. from 9:00am to 5:00pm). The sampling staff will wear uniforms and staff identification cards.
7. Notification of Water Testing Results

If exceedance is found in the Tier 1 sample, WSD will provide information on the related health risks. For details, please visit website of the Department of Health’s Centre for Health Protection. Alternatively, the RC can choose to engage a qualified person (i.e. building services engineer, building surveyor or licensed plumber who has been included in the list of qualified consultants/persons providing investigation services) to conduct the investigation and take the necessary follow-up actions. The relevant licensing authorities and the relevant parties of the concerned premises will also be advised to notify all the owners and occupiers in the same building of the exceedance.

9. Will Exceedance of Water Samples in One Premises Reflect a More Generalised Problem in the Building?

The above flushing measure is to remove the stagnant water in the most premises. In the similar case, WSD will undertake to follow up the progress of the investigation and take the necessary follow-up actions. WSD will also provide technical advice and recommendations as appropriate. The relevant parties will be advised to enrol in the Enhanced Programme to involve the competent RCs and occupiers to conduct the investigation and take the necessary follow-up actions. The relevant licensing authorities and the relevant parties of the concerned premises will also be advised to notify all the owners and occupiers in the same building of the exceedance.

11. Publication of Water Quality Statistics

The water quality statistics under the Enhanced Programme will be updated once every week. The test results of the water samples collected from individual premises will be included in the compilation of the water quality statistics on WSD’s website (www.wsd.gov.hk/en/dwsewqmp). The water quality statistics under the Enhanced Programme will be published on WSD’s website weekly.

12. Flowchart of the Enhanced Programme

WSD will compile water quality statistics and publish on WSD’s website weekly. The sampling team will visit the targeted premises from 9:00am to 5:00pm in any one day within the sampling period. When consent is given by the occupiers of the sampled premises, the test result will be notified to the occupier and RC (and the owner as far as practicable) of the concerned premises as soon as possible. After confirming the test results, WSD will: (i) advise the occupier and RC (and the owner as far as practicable) of the concerned premises as soon as possible; (ii) provide technical advice and recommendations as appropriate. The relevant parties will be advised to enrol in the Enhanced Programme to involve the competent RCs and occupiers to conduct the investigation and take the necessary follow-up actions. The relevant licensing authorities and the relevant parties of the concerned premises will also be advised to notify all the owners and occupiers in the same building of the exceedance.

Generalised Problem in the Building?

The information collected under the Enhanced Programme will be used for the purposes of the Enhanced Programme and the general administration of the Waterworks Ordinance and the Water Quality Ordinance and any other purposes directly related thereto; and WSD will not release the personal information of the persons involved or any other information that may be transferred to other Government bureaux and departments, relevant licensing authorities, relevant parties responsible for maintaining and managing the building in question, relevant parties responsible for maintaining and managing the building in question and/or responsible for maintaining the building in question for the purpose of the Enhanced Programme and in accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance.

In case of exceedance, WSD will provide advisory notice and support to affected RCs.

ENHANCED WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

WSD will complete the water samples for the six month period and WSD will test the water samples for the six month periods. RCs and occupiers of the sampled premises will be notified of the test results. In case of exceedance, WSD will also notify the owner for the premises.

13. General Enquiries

For any general enquiries, please call the helpline of Action Plan for Improving Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong (WSD): 2824 5000 (press 05 after language selection) or please visit website of the Department of Health’s Centre for Health Protection or WSD’s website (www.wsd.gov.hk/en/dwsewqmp).

When consent is given by the occupiers of the targeted premises, WSD will sample water from new premises in the premises.

The sampling team will visit the targeted premises from 9:00am to 5:00pm in any one day within the sampling period.