

WATER SAFETY PLAN FOR BUILDINGS

Why should I join the Scheme?

It is possible that most of the control measures, e.g. locking the water tank covers and regular cleaning of the water tanks, have already been included in the routine operation and maintenance of the building's internal plumbing system. Yet, the WSP provides a systematic approach to enhance water safety firstly through assessments along the whole water supply chain of the building, to identify areas where potential contamination in the internal plumbing system may occur, and implement and monitor the relevant control measures in order to prevent or reduce the risks. Property management agents of those buildings which have developed and implemented the WSPs can apply to WSD for joining the Scheme. Successful applicants will be awarded with a certificate in recognition of their efforts in maintaining their internal plumbing systems and uphold drinking water safety. Application procedures and details for the Scheme will be announced on WSD's website in Q4 2017. WSD is currently working with the industry of property management and the Advisory Committee on Water Supplies for the details of the Scheme.

What are the expected additional resources for joining the Scheme?

The Scheme requires routine general checking (such as routine inspection of water storage tanks) and specific inspection (such as checking the performance of the water pumps). In general, the property management staff can undertake the work of DP involving general monitoring of control measures, while the QP engaged could be responsible for the more specific monitoring duties. In addition, once the WSP for the building is up and running for a period of time, it is also recommended that periodic compliance check-ups and updates of the WSP are necessary as they ensure that the WSP remains a powerful and useful tool for continuously upholding the water quality in the building. Against this, in addition to routine inspection and cleaning of water storage tanks, those buildings joining the Scheme need

to engage a QP to conduct annual specific monitoring and another person (either an internal staff not involved in the implementation of the WSP or an external third party) to conduct periodic compliance check-ups. Such annual monitoring and check-ups would require about two to three man-day for a building with general internal plumbing layout. Apart from the above, it may take a longer time for more complicated internal plumbing systems and when QP is engaged to develop or update the WSP for the building.



WSD will launch the Scheme in Q4 of 2017. Details of the Scheme will be uploaded to WSD's website.

Additional Information

The Guidelines, WSP templates and the list of trained QPs on WSP for buildings are available on WSD's website www.wsd.gov.hk (accessible through scanning of the following QR code).

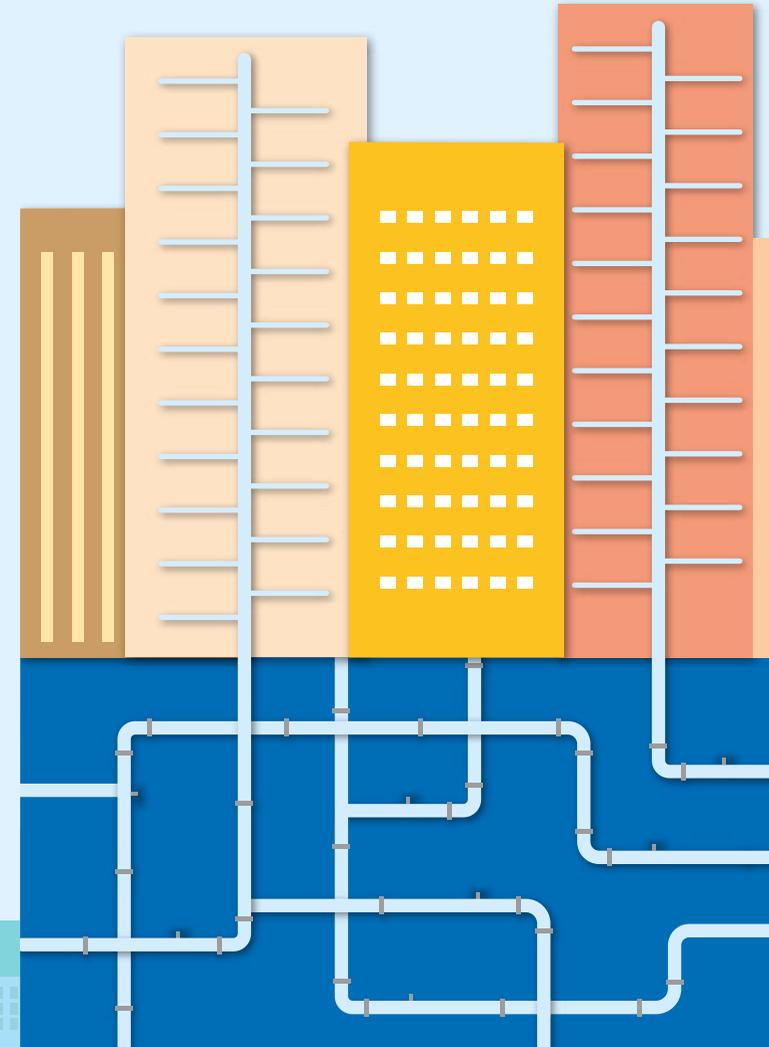


Enquiries

WSD has set up a help desk to provide technical support to building owners/property management agents on WSP for buildings. The help desk can be reached through a telephone hotline, fax or e-mail as follows:

Hotline 2829 5696*
Fax 2877 4935
E-mail wspb_help_desk@wsd.gov.hk

*For details of the service hours, please visit WSD's website: www.wsd.gov.hk/en/contact-us.



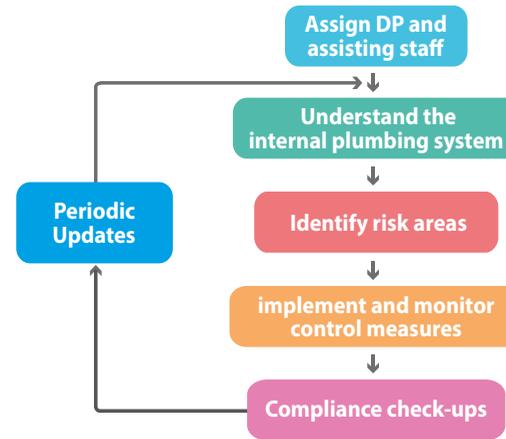
Water Safety Plan

The World Health Organization (WHO) advocates the adoption of the Water Safety Plan (WSP) to ensure drinking water safety through risk management including identification of areas where potential contamination in the internal plumbing system may occur and devising appropriate control measures. The Water Supplies Department (WSD) developed and implemented the departmental WSP in 2007 in accordance with the WHO's recommendations to ensure drinking water quality from source to distribution. In regard to the inside services, WSD has also spelt out in the WSP its regulatory, monitoring and advisory role. Moreover, WSD has launched an integrated Drinking Water Quality Management System in 2017 to further strengthen its water quality management via appropriate institutional structure, water quality policy and WSP ensuring appropriate resource allocation, communication and training/education.

Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings – Fresh Water (Management System)

Notwithstanding that the water supplied by WSD is safe to drink, the water quality could be affected in the internal plumbing systems due to various factors, such as the drinking water tank is not properly cleaned, or the internal water supply system is contaminated due to stagnation of water or use of inappropriate plumbing materials. In view of this, WSD has committed to promoting WSP to building owners/property management agents on how to develop and implement WSP for buildings in accordance with the recommendations of the WHO, and will enhance the existing "Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings - Fresh Water (Plus)" and launch the "Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings – Fresh Water (Management System)" (the "Scheme") to provide incentive to encourage building owners/property management agents to participate in the Scheme to enhance water quality in their buildings.

Under the Scheme, a Designated Person (DP) (such as a property management staff), who is conversant with the operations of the building and is supported by appropriate assisting staff (such as technical staff responsible for the maintenance of internal plumbing systems), is needed to be appointed with the responsibility to develop and implement the WSP for the building.

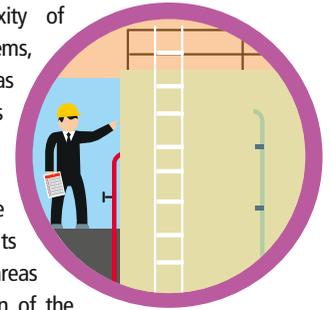


WSPs for Buildings Operation Flowchart

The WSP for the building can be developed through the following steps:

- 1 Understand the building's internal plumbing system;
- 2 Assess and identify areas in the internal plumbing system where there may be risks of contamination, e.g. water storage tanks could be contaminated by the ingress of foreign objects;
- 3 Implement and monitor the corresponding control measures to prevent or reduce the occurrence of the associated risks, e.g. periodic inspection of water storage tanks to ensure that the covers are locked; and
- 4 Perform periodic compliance check-ups to ensure that the WSP is implemented effectively.

Depending on the complexity of certain internal plumbing systems, qualified persons (QPs) such as building services engineers (BSEs), building surveyors (BSs) or licensed plumbers (LPs) are to be engaged as appropriate to help perform risk assessments including identification of areas where potential contamination of the internal plumbing system may occur. WSD has organised a series of training sessions and workshops for the QPs to equip the industry for providing such services. While more such training sessions or workshops will be organised to train up more QPs, a list of trained QPs is available on WSD's website (please see Additional Information below).



To facilitate development and implementation of WSPs for buildings, WSD has prepared the "Guidelines for Drinking Water Safety Plans for Buildings in Hong Kong" (the "Guidelines") and WSP templates for general buildings (such as residential or office buildings) and specific buildings (such as schools). The Guidelines and templates have been uploaded to WSD's website (please see Additional Information below). WSD has completed the pilot schemes on the use of the Guidelines and templates on residential buildings and schools respectively and initiated the promotion scheme on residential buildings. As regards WSP templates for other specific buildings (such as elderly homes), they are being developed and will be subject to the testing of relevant pilot schemes. Completed specific templates will be uploaded to WSD website.

Further, WSD has organised briefings to property management agents and plumbing practitioners in regard to the development of WSPs for buildings and more will be organised as and when required. A help desk has been set up to provide technical support to building owners/property management agents (please see Enquiries below).