

**Information requested by the Bills Committee
at its meeting held on 1 March 2001 regarding
the Karaoke Establishments Bill**

The information requested by the Bills Committee is set out in the following paragraphs –

1. Cost estimate for necessary alteration works in a room of an existing karaoke establishment

BD has worked out the estimated cost based on the example of a proposal to upgrade the exit corridors to protected corridors having a fire resistance period of one hour and without dead-end in an existing karaoke establishment comprising 50 karaoke rooms. The cost is estimated to be in the range of \$14,500 per meter length of corridor or around \$39,000 per karaoke room.

As for the cost of fire service installations, FSD estimates that the cost of each karaoke room is around \$11,200 as a rough guide (based on the same example quoted by BD and assuming that an improvised sprinkler system and an emergency lighting system have not already been provided. The cost is estimated to be only \$4,600 for each karaoke room if these two items have already been provided in the premises.)

2. Licensing scheme and requirements

The licensing procedures in respect of the two licensing authorities are at Annexes A1 and A2 respectively. The fire safety and building safety licensing requirements are set out in Annexes B1 and B2.

Clause 5

3. Meaning of “suitable place” and “suitable area”

“Suitable place” referred to in clause 5(3)(b) means that the premises under application for licence/permit have complied with all the relevant hygiene,

building and fire safety requirements to the satisfaction of the licensing authority. (The requirements will be specified in the subsidiary legislation.)

The “place” must be suitable for the operation of a karaoke establishment. For example, in relation to fire safety, an industrial building is not a suitable place. Nor is Level 4, or below, of any basement.

The place must be located in an “area” suitable for the operation of a karaoke establishment. “Suitable area” is related to the neighborhood of a karaoke establishment rather than the premises of the karaoke establishment itself. Clause 5(6) provides the flexibility for the licensing authority to take into account the views of persons living or working in the immediate vicinity of the proposed karaoke establishment. The extent to which the application of this clause will affect a decision made under clause 5(3)(b) will depend on the circumstances of individual cases.

4. Meaning of “public interest”

The general sense of the term “public interest” is that it gives that licensing authority statutory power to take into account interests wider and more abstract than those of the applicant, and of the policy of the Administration and wider than the considerations mentioned in clause 5(3). The term “public interest” does not mean “what interests the public” nor “public opinion”. Nor does it mean “the views of persons” who are referred to in clause 5(6), though the licensing authority may take them into account by virtue of the separate statutory power created by that clause.

5. Same procedure applicable to an application for a permit and a licence

Subject to the exceptions provided for in clause 3, any place opened, kept or used for the purpose of karaoke by way of trade or business, has to be regulated by the proposed licensing regime. Any premises or place having a separate licence for another purpose is licensed only for that purpose.

Karaoke establishments are often partitioned into a number of small cubicles. Also, the patrons’ awareness of safety may be affected by loud

music inside the premises and possibly the consumption of liquor. The population density is often high in karaoke establishments. Without proper fire safety construction, enhanced fire service installations and fire safety management, the risk of fire in a karaoke establishment remains high in the light of the unique characteristics of its operation. Hence, all karaoke establishments (notwithstanding the fact that existing ones may have already been granted a separate licence for the purpose of restaurant, club, hotel or guesthouse) should comply with the licensing requirements specifically applicable to karaoke establishments.

Clauses 13(1)(b)(ii) to (iv) and 19

6. Scope of powers

The powers in clause 13(1)(b)(ii) to (iv) in relation to the inspection of karaoke establishments mirror those in other licensing regimes, for example, section 18 of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (Cap. 349) in relation to the inspection of hotels and guesthouses; section 18 of the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 376) in relation to the inspection of club-houses; section 18 of the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459) in relation to the inspection of residential care homes.

These powers are reasonably necessary to enhance the effective enforcement of the criminal law. They are explicit and clear so that those who exercise them can understand the exact extent and conditions of the powers and those in respect of whom they are exercised can see in plain terms, that the inspector or other person exercising them, is clearly within the scope of the law. They are no more than is necessary in two contexts, first, the effective administration of the regulatory regime; second, the investigation of serious offences or of suspected serious offences, namely, under clause 4 (operation without a permit or licence); clause 16 (breach of conditions; failure to comply with directions; obstruction).

Clause 19 provides that on the conviction of any person for any of the offences under clause 4 or clause 16, a Court may order the forfeiture of karaoke apparatus and equipment. This provision mirrors that in section 56 of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) in relation to articles used in the commission of an offence, in section 22 of the Gambling

Ordinance (Cap. 148) in relation to gambling equipment, and in section 22 of the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap. 435) in relation to video and arcade games equipment.

Clause 16(5)

7. Daily fine

In relation to the proposed level of a daily fine of \$1,000, it has to be appreciated, that the offender will be someone who is knowingly and willfully continuing to commit an offence after it is made known to him that he is to be prosecuted for it. The amount is far lower than is provided in other cases. The daily penalty in the case of a continuing offence under section 4(3) of the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap. 435), section 5(1) of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (Cap.349) and section 4(1) of the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 376) is \$20,000 per day.

Clause 20

8. Draft Regulations

We provide herewith an outline of draft Regulations on an “information only” basis (Annex C). The Regulations are to be made by the Chief Executive in Council following enactment of the Bill. They will then be laid before the Legislative Council for scrutiny in the normal way.

Security Bureau
March 2001

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Building Safety Licensing Requirements

Requirement	New Establishment	Existing Establishment
<p>Bona fide restaurant:</p> <p>(a) The aggregate areas of all the cubicles partitioned for Karaoke activities do not exceed 30% of the seating area in the restaurant.</p> <p>(b) The number of cubicles partitioned for Karaoke activities does not exceed the total seating area divided by 100 m².</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
Structural suitability:	Premises to withstand a live load of 5 Kpa	Premises to withstand a live load of 5 Kpa
Width of exit route	1.2m	1.05m tolerated until the establishment undertakes major alteration works
Exit from Entertainment Room	2 directional travel	2 directional travel
Exit from Entertainment Room - dead-end due to building design	<p>Acceptable if</p> <p>(a) the Karaoke establishment is protected by an automatic sprinkler system;</p> <p>(b) the provision of a portable fire extinguisher and an additional manual fire alarm in each entertainment room open off the dead-end corridor.</p>	<p>Acceptable if</p> <p>(a) the Karaoke establishment is protected by an automatic sprinkler system;</p> <p>(b) the provision of a portable fire extinguisher and an additional manual fire alarm in each entertainment room open off the dead-end corridor.</p>
Exit from Entertainment Room - dead-end created	Not acceptable	Modification of the layout is required.

Requirement	New Establishment	Existing Establishment
not due to building design		The provision of an access panel giving access to the adjacent room where its exit discharges to another corridor is considered an acceptable option in resolving the dead-end problem.
Internal corridor	Wall to have a fire resistance period of 1 hour and door to have a fire resistance period of 1/2 hour	<p><i>Establishment with sprinkler:</i> Upgrading works within 36 months from date of operation of the Ordinance</p> <p><i>Establishment without sprinkler:</i> Upgrading works within 18 months from date of operation of the Ordinance subject to provision of audible and visual alarm signals in every room and at suitable location of corridor.</p>
Vision panel for Entertainment Room	A vision panel of not less than 0.04m ² to be provided either on wall of corridor or access door. Vision panel to have the same fire resistance period of the wall or door.	A vision panel of not less than 0.04m ² to be provided either on wall of corridor or access door when the wall of the corridor is upgraded to have the requisite fire resistance period. Vision panel to have the same fire resistance period of the wall or door.

[396-(A)-SUP]

Comments on the Submission from a Concern Group on Karaoke Establishments Bill

We note the concerns raised and would like to offer our comments on certain issues at this stage –

1. In formulating the fire safety and building safety requirements, we have made reference to the existing codes of practice, past experience in various fire incidents, study of existing layout plans of karaoke establishments and consultation with professional bodies.
2. Regarding the requirement for a protected corridor having one hour fire resistance period (FRP), it is worthwhile to note that Para. 9.3 of the current Code of Practice on Fire Resisting Construction requires that every internal corridor, other than shopping arcade, serving rooms or flats in different occupancies should be separated from such occupancies by walls having an FRP of 1 hour. It is not unreasonable to treat each cubicle in a karaoke establishment as different occupancy in the light of the special characteristic of the operation of a karaoke establishment. In addition, the licensing authority of hotels and guesthouses also requires the internal corridors of hotels, guesthouses and holiday camps to be of fire resistance construction.
3. We have also made reference to the requirement on provisions of means of escape in places of public entertainment in setting the standard on the width of internal corridor for a karaoke establishment.
4. We are of the view that dead-end situation should be eliminated wherever possible as it is a critical factor attributed to the cause of fatalities in fires.
5. Should operators wish to adopt alternative design using fire engineering approach in lieu of the prescriptive standards, such proposals will be considered by a committee comprising government officials, academics and specialists in the private sector.
6. We agree that the engagement of fire safety officers and other safety management are improvements on the 'software' side and is a good supplement to the required fire safety measures. However, we are of the

view that such measures cannot substitute the necessary passive fire safety requirements (hardware) which are of paramount importance for the purposes of controlling fire spread and providing suitable means of escape for patrons of karaoke establishments in case of fire.

7. The basic building safety requirements for a karaoke establishment operated under a permit or a licence will be the same.
8. We believe that both new and existing karaoke establishments should be provided with the requisite safety provision for the safety of the patrons.
9. We have taken into account the results of the regulatory impact assessment on existing karaoke establishments in formulating the requirements. In this connection, we have proposed a plan to implement the building safety requirements in phases. We hope that this would help to alleviate the immediate financial burden on the operators of existing karaoke establishments.

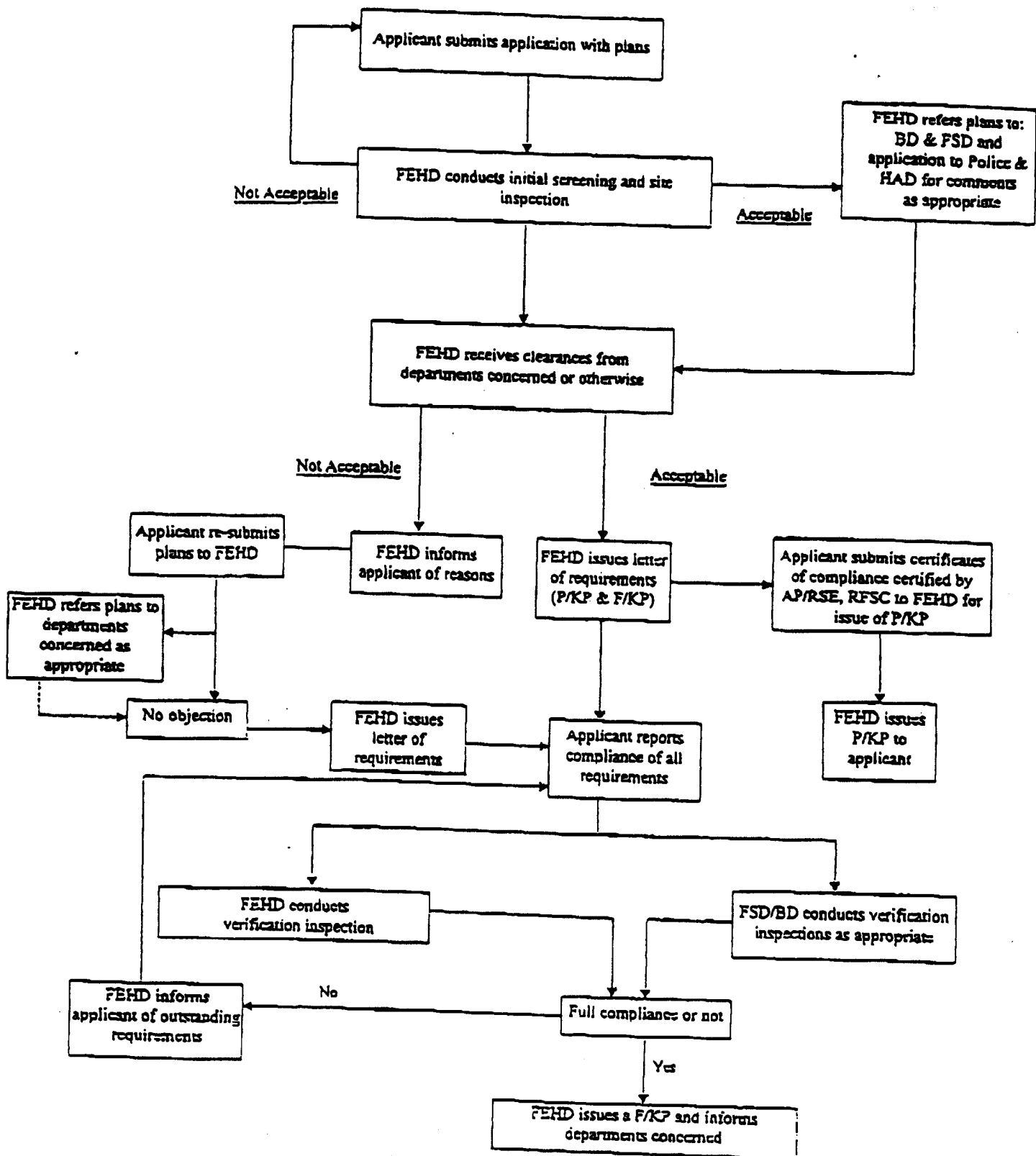
Security Bureau
March 2001

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Flow Chart Showing Licensing Procedures for Application for a Karaoke Establishment Permit in Licensed Restaurants

Annex A

Licensing Authority – Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

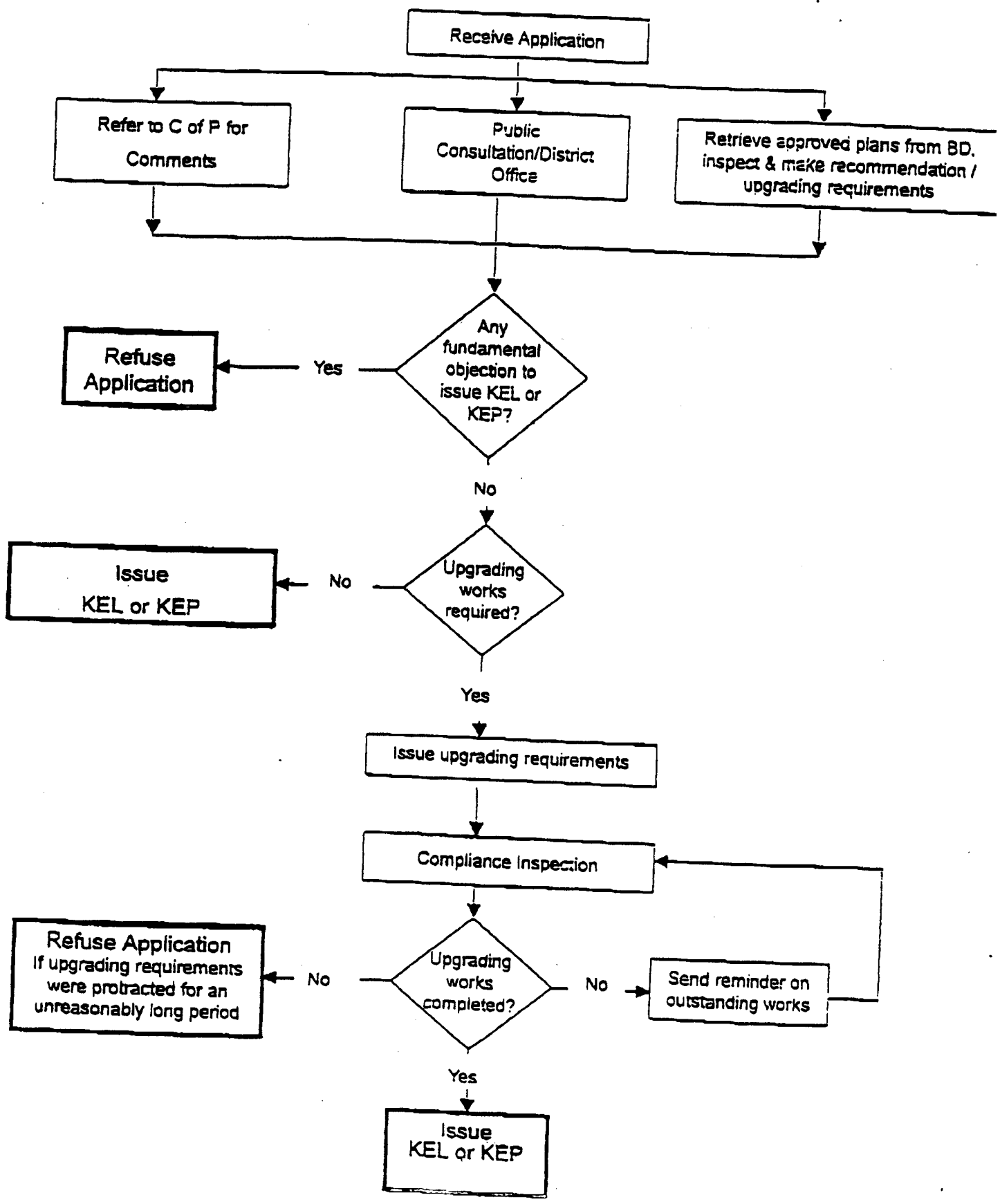


- Legend** :-
- | | |
|---|--|
| FEHD :- Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | AP :- Authorized Person |
| BD :- Buildings Department | RSE :- Registered Structural Engineer |
| FSD :- Fire Services Department | RFSC :- Registered Fire Services Contractor |
| HAD :- Home Affairs Department | F/KP :- Full Karaoke Establishment Permit |
| | P/KP :- Provisional Karaoke Establishment Permit |

Flow Chart Showing Licensing Procedures for Application for a Karaoke Establishment Licence or a Karaoke Establishment Permit in Certified Clubs/Licensed Hotels or Guesthouses

Annex A

Licensing Authority - Secretary for Home Affairs



Fire Safety Licensing Requirements

Annex B1

FS Requirements	Licensing Regime			
	Restaurant	Hotel & Club	KE Licence	KE Permit
Restrictions				
Premises cannot be located (a) on basement level 4 or below; and (b) in any industrial buildings.	✓	✓	✓	#
General Requirements				
1. All combustible materials used as false ceilings, partitions or wall furnishings must meet British Standard 476: Part 7 Class 1 or 2 Rate of Surface Spread of Flame, or must be brought up to that standard by treating with an approved fire retardant paint or solution.	✓	✓	✓	#
2. All draperies and curtains if installed, must be made of materials containing fire resistant fabric and conform to British Standard 5867: Part 2 fabric type B when tested in accordance with British Standard 5438, or must be brought up to that standard by treating with an approved fire retardant paint or solution.	✓	✓	✓	#

FS Requirements	Licensing Regime			
	Restaurant	Hotel & Club	KE Licence	KE Permit
3. The carpets within the protected means of escape must be made of pure wool or must comply with British Standard 5287 when tested in accordance with British Standard 4790, equivalent international standards are acceptable. If the carpet does not conform to the above standards but the pile height of which does not exceed 10mm, the area to be carpeted may be allowed for not exceeding 5% of the protected means of escape calculated on the floor by floor basis.	Similar	✓	✓	✓
4. All polyurethane foam filled mattresses must comply with British Standard 7177, medium hazard, or its international equivalent.	✓	✓	✓	#
5. All polyurethane foam filled upholstered furniture must comply with British Standard 7176, medium hazard, or its international equivalent.	✓	✓	✓	#
6. If the original windows provided in accordance with the building plans approved by the Building Authority are sealed up by more than 50%, a smoke extraction system must be provided.	✓	✓	✓	#

FS Requirements	Licensing Regime			
	Restaurant	Hotel & Club	KE Licence	KE Permit
7. All exits must be indicated by illuminated signs bearing the word and characters "EXIT 出口" of not less than 125mm high with 15mm wide strokes. Adequate directional signs must be provided at those locations where exit signs are not readily visible.	✓	✓	✓	#
8. Low level directional signs capable of indicating the exit direction in darkness must be provided at 200mm above floor level.			✓	✓
9. A schematic exit plan showing the floor layout and the directions of egress to escape staircases and their means of escape must be displayed at each room intended to be used by customers. The size of exit plan must not be less than 250 mm x 250 mm and be affixed adjacent to the exit at a height of 1,500 mm above the floor.			✓	✓
10. Emergency lighting must be provided.	✓	✓	✓	#
11. A short fire safety film must be shown to the customers before the karaoke activity is started.			✓	✓
12. Employees of karaoke establishments must have received fire safety training provided by the Fire Services Department at least once in every 12 months. Training courses provided by other training institutions and approved by the Fire Services Department are acceptable.			✓	✓

FS Requirements	Licensing Regime			
	Restaurant	Hotel & Club	KE Licence	KE Permit
<p>Fire service installations and equipment</p> <p>Unless already installed as part of the building's fire service installations, fire service installations of the following description must be provided in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment 1998 or the latest version of this Code of Practice published from time to time by the Director of Fire Services –</p> <p>(a) a fire hydrant/hose reel system;</p> <p>(b) a manual fire alarm system with operation switches provided at each of the following locations -</p> <p>(i) near each exit;</p> <p>(ii) at the main entrance;</p> <p>(iii) at the cashier's counter;</p> <p>(iv) at the reception area; and</p> <p>(v) at the waiting area;</p> <p>(c) alarm bells of the fire alarm system must be provided at individual rooms intended for use by customers;</p> <p>(d) an automatic fire alarm system must be provided if the premises occupy an area exceeding 126m²;</p>				
	✓	✓	✓	#
	✓	✓	✓	#
		✓ (for club only)	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	#

FS Requirements	Licensing Regime			
	Restaurant	Hotel & Club	KE Licence	KE Permit
(e) a sprinkler system must be provided if the premises - (i) are located in a curtain-walled building or a basement floor and occupy an area exceeding 126m ² ; or (ii) are located in other types of building and occupy an area exceeding 230m ² ;	✓	✓	✓	#
(f) a dedicated smoke extraction system must be provided if the premises are located in a curtain-walled building or a basement floor with a cubic volume exceeding 7000m ³ ;	✓	✓	✓	#
(g) audio-visual advisory system which can interrupt or override the music or other sound and visual images produced by the karaoke equipment in case of an alarm must be provided.			✓	✓
Ventilation System				
1. All ventilation system installed in the premises must comply with all relevant statutory requirements.	✓	✓	✓	#
2. Automatic cut-off devices must be provided for mechanical ventilating systems.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Legend : ✓ = Required # = Already provided under the respective restaurant/hotel/club licensing regime

Annex C

JDScott#23215

1st working draft: 16.5.2000

2nd working draft: 15.8.2000

3rd working draft: 16.10.2000

KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENTS (LICENSING) REGULATION

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 20
of the Karaoke Establishments Ordinance (of 2000))

1. Citation

These Regulations may be cited as the Karaoke Establishments
(Licensing) Regulation.

PART I**APPLICATION FOR LICENCE OR PERMIT****2. Licence or permit**

Where an application for the grant of a licence or
permit is made under section 5 of the Ordinance, the licence or
permit shall not be granted unless -

(a) where the application is made in respect of any
premises in which a fixed electrical installation
is or is to be installed, the licensing authority
has received from the applicant concerned -

(i) in the case where the installation is a
new one, a copy of a work completion
certificate issued both as regards the
installation and for the purposes of
regulation 19 of the Electricity (Wiring)
Regulations (Cap. 406 sub. leg.); or

- (ii) in the case where the installation is an existing one, a copy of a periodic test certificate issued both as regards the installation and for the purposes of regulation 20 of the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (Cap. 406 sub. leg.); and
- (b) all fire services requirements and building safety requirements as specified by the licensing authority in respect of the premises concerned have been complied with.

3. Submission of plans

When applying for the grant of a licence or permit, the applicant shall submit a plan showing, to the satisfaction of the licensing authority the layout of the premises to which the application relates, in particular, the following -

- (a) each part of the premises intended to be used for karaoke and the location of all apparatus and equipment to be used for karaoke;
- (b) each existing and any proposed exit route from the premises;
- (c) the position or location in the premises of any existing or proposed rooms to be used for karaoke;
- (d) the proposed or present location in the premises of all sanitary fittings;
- (e) the proposed or present location in the premises of all fire services installations and associated equipment;
- (f) the means of ventilation of the premises including windows, ducts or any mechanical means;

- (g) the position or location of all furniture of a substantial and permanent nature.

4. **Issue of licence or grant of permit**

(1) The licensing authority shall not issue a licence unless he is satisfied that, in relation to the premises in respect of which the application is made -

- (a) the plan mentioned in section 3 has been submitted to the licensing authority under that section and the premises conform with that plan;
- (b) where openings or windows which can be opened to the open air during business opening hours are less than $1/10^{\text{th}}$ of the floor area, a ventilating system has been or will be provided to give not less than 17 cubic metres of outside air per hour for each person that the premises are designed to accommodate. The same specification will apply if a ventilating system is installed voluntarily;
- (c) sanitary fitments to a standard not less than that required by the provisions of the Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations (Cap. 123 sub. leg.) applicable to restaurants will be provided;
- (d) the ventilating system complies or will comply with the requirements stipulated in the Ventilation of Scheduled Premises Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg.);
- (e) all fire services requirements as stipulated in Schedule 1 have been or will be complied with; and
- (f) all building safety requirements as stipulated in Schedule 2 have been or will be complied with.

(2) The licensing authority shall not grant a permit unless he is satisfied that, in relation to the premises in respect of which the application for such permit was made -

- (a) all fire services requirements as stipulated in Schedule 1 have been or will be complied with; and
- (b) all building safety requirements as stipulated in Schedule 2 have been or will be complied with.

PART II

MAINTENANCE AND ALTERATIONS

5. General maintenance

The licensee or permittee shall maintain all parts of the premises and the fittings and apparatus in the premises, including any seating, electrical, cooling, ventilating or other installations, in good order and condition to the satisfaction of by the licensing authority.

6. Dustbins

The licensee or permittee shall provide and maintain an adequate number of bins or receptacles with properly fitting covers for dust and refuse. Such bins or receptacles shall be positioned or located in a suitable place and maintained in a clean and wholesome condition.

7. Sanitizing equipment for microphones

The licensee or permittee shall provide and maintain adequate sanitizing measures for all microphones and keep the microphones in a clean and hygienic condition.

8. Alterations to the layout

No licensee or permittee shall, save with the prior permission in writing of the licensing authority, make or cause, permit or suffer to be made any alteration or addition to the matters specified in the plan submitted to and approved by the licensing authority under section 3.

9. Display of licence or permit

The licensee or permittee shall exhibit and keep exhibited the licence or permit in a conspicuous position at the entrance of the premises to which such licence or permit relates.

PART III
OFFENCES AND MISCELLANEOUS

10. Offences and penalties

Any person who contravenes section 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 commits an offence and liable to a fine at level 3.

SCHEDULE 1 [s. 4]
FIRE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS FOR KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENT

1. Restrictions

Karaoke establishments cannot be located -

- (a) on level 4 or below of any basement; and
- (b) in any industrial building.

2. General requirements

(1) All combustible materials used as false ceilings, partitions or wall furnishings must meet British Standard 476: Part 7 Class 1 or 2 Rate of Surface Spread of Flame, or must be brought up to that standard by treating with an approved fire retardant paint or solution.

(2) All draperies and curtains if installed, must be made of materials containing fire resistant fabric and conform to British Standard 5867: Part 2 fabric type B when tested in accordance with British Standard 5438, or must be brought up to that standard by treating with an approved fire retardant paint or solution.

(3) The carpets within the protected means of escape of the karaoke establishment must comply with ASTM E-648 the USA Standard for assessment of textile floor covering or BS 5287: as conforming to low radius of effects of ignition when tested in accordance with BS 4790 or made of pure wool, unless the pile height of which does not exceed 10 mm and the area to be carpeted does not exceed 5% of the protected means of escape calculated on the floor by floor basis.

(4) All mattresses must comply with British Standard 7177, medium hazard, or its international equivalent.

(5) All upholstered furniture containing Polyurethane Foam must comply with British Standard 7176, medium hazard, or its international equivalent.

(6) If the original windows provided for the premises in accordance with the building plans approved by the Building Authority are sealed up by more than 50%, a smoke extraction system must be provided.

(7) All exits in the premises must be indicated by illuminated signs bearing the word and characters "EXIT 出口" in

block letter and characters of not less than 125mm high with 15mm wide strokes. Adequate directional signs must be provided at those locations of the premises where exit signs are not readily visible.

(8) Low level directional signs capable of indicating the exit direction in darkness must be provided at 200mm above floor level.

(9) A schematic exit plan showing the floor layout and the directions of egress to escape staircases and their means of escape must be displayed at each entertainment room. The size of exit plan must not be less than 250 mm x 250 mm and be affixed adjacent to the exit at a height of 1,500 mm above the floor.

(10) Emergency lighting must be provided for the entire premises.

(11) A fire safety video must be shown to the customers before the music videos are started.

(12) Employees of karaoke establishments must have received fire safety training provided by the Fire Services Department at least once in every 12 months.

3. Fire service installations and equipment

Unless already installed as part of the building's fire service installations, fire service installations of the following description must be provided in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment 1998 or the latest version of this Code of Practice published from time to time by the Director of Fire Services -

(a) a fire hydrant and hose reel system;

(b) a manual fire alarm system with operation switches provided at each of the following locations -

- (i) near each exit;
 - (ii) at the main entrance;
 - (iii) at the cashier's counter;
 - (iv) at the reception area; and
 - (v) at the waiting area;
- (c) alarm bells of the fire alarm system must be provided at individual entertainment rooms in which karaoke facilities are provided;
- (d) an automatic fire alarm system must be provided if the premises occupy an area exceeding 126m²;
- (e) a sprinkler system must be provided if the premises
- (i) are located in a curtain-walled building or a basement floor and occupy an area exceeding 126 m²; or
 - (ii) are located in other types of building and occupy an area exceeding 230m²;
- (f) a dedicated smoke extraction system must be provided if the premises are located in a curtain-walled building or a basement floor with a cubic volume exceeding 7,000m³;
- (g) audio-visual advisory system which can interrupt or override the music or other sound and visual images produced by the karaoke equipment in case of an alarm must be provided.

4. Ventilation system

- (1) All ventilation systems installed in the premises must comply with all relevant statutory requirements.

(2) Automatic cut-off devices must be provided for mechanical ventilation systems.

5. Application

(1) The fire services requirements at paragraphs 1 to 4 apply to premises operated as karaoke establishments.

(2) The fire services requirements at paragraphs 2(3) (carpet), 2(8) (low level directional exit sign), 2(9) (schematic exit plan), 2(11) (fire safety video), 2(12) (fire safety training), 3(c) (alarm bells), 3(g) (audio-visual advisory system) and 4(2) (cut-off device for ventilating system) shall apply to karaoke establishments operated in premises in respect of which a hotel, guesthouse, club or restaurant licence has been issued.

6. Saving

This set of fire safety requirements is issued and imposed for the purpose, only, of the safe operation of karaoke establishments and shall not be construed so as to exempt the premises concerned from complying with other fire safety requirements pertaining to the grant of any other licence.

SCHEDULE 2

[s. 4]

BUILDING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENT

1. General requirements

Every karaoke establishment must comply with the following building safety requirements -

- (a) adequate means of escape from the premises in case of emergency must be provided;

- (b) exits from every entertainment room must have and enable two directional travel;
- (c) internal exit corridors must be protected by fire resisting construction; and
- (d) the premises must be structurally suitable for karaoke.

2. Assessment of population

For the purpose of determining the provision of means of escape, the population of a karaoke establishment is to be calculated as follows -

- (a) customers - $1\text{m}^2/\text{person}$, calculated on the aggregate floor area of entertainment rooms, lounge and dining area;
 - $0.75\text{m}^2/\text{person}$ in dancing area and reception area.
- (b) staff - one per 20 customers or $4.5\text{m}^2/\text{person}$ of kitchen/food preparation area, whichever is the greater.

3. Structural suitability

The premises shall be structurally suitable to withstand a live load of not less than 5kPa .

4. The exit route

(1) The minimum width of exit route including internal corridors within a karaoke establishment must be at least 1.2m .

(2) The exit from every entertainment room should have and must enable at least two directions of travel to a staircase or a point of discharge to a street. A dead-end situation is only

permitted in circumstances where it is unavoidable due to building design, subject to the provision of additional safety measures to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority. For the purposes of this requirement, a "dead-end situation" means a position where the direction of travel to a staircase or a point of discharge to a street, is possible only in one direction.

5. The internal corridor

(1) The internal corridors within a karaoke establishment must be separated from the remaining areas by walls having a fire resistance period of not less than 1 hour; and the doors therein should be self-closing, having a fire resistance period of not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ hour;

(2) Every opening for the passage of air-conditioning ducts, ventilation ducts, electrical trunking, conduits, pipes and wire through a fire resisting wall should be protected to prevent the spread of fire in accordance with paragraph 10.5 of the Code of Practice for Fire Resisting Construction 1996.

6. The entertainment room

Every entertainment room in a karaoke establishment must be provided with a vision panel of size not less than 0.04m^2 either on the walls facing internal corridors or on access doors of the room. Such vision panel must have a fire resistance period of not less than that required for the walls or doors where appropriate.

7. Saving

This set of building safety requirements applies in addition to the requirements in the 'Code of Practice for the Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire 1996', 'Code of Practice for Fire

Resisting Construction 1996' and 'Code of Practice for Means of Access for Firefighting and Rescue 1995' or in the latest versions of such Codes of Practice published from time to time by the Building Authority.

Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

2000

Explanatory Note