

**Administration's Response to Requests relating to Building Safety Requirements made by the Karaoke Requirements Concern Group and Alternative Options for Building Safety Provisions in Existing Karaoke Establishments**

**Requests Made by the Concern Group**

In a recent meeting with Buildings Department (BD), the Karaoke Requirements Concern Group (Concern Group), among other things, has asked whether BD would allow the width of the corridor of existing Karaoke Establishments (KE) to be reduced to less than 1.2m as a result of the erection of new fire resistance walls in the corridor. Alleging the acceptance of dead-end corridor with a fire resistance door across the corridor in the British Standards, the Concern Group has suggested that similar arrangement be accepted for dead-end corridors in existing KE.

**Response**

2. The views of the Administration on the above requests made by the Concern Group are as follows:

**(a) *Width of Corridor of Existing KE***

In line with the policy on tolerating existing KE to have a corridor less than 1.2m wide, the Administration is prepared to accept the reduction of the width of the corridor to not less than 1.05m to facilitate the installation of fire resistance partitions along the corridors of the existing KE subject to the following conditions:

- the total capacity of the KE within the floor is not more than 500 persons; and
- the width of the corridor shall be widened upon the carrying out of major alteration works

**(b) *Dead-end Corridor***

The relevant British Standards have been studied and the Administration is not convinced that the scenario set out in the British Standards is comparable to the situation in KE.

**Alternative Options for Existing KE**

3. For KE rooms in dead-end corridors not due to building design, an acceptable option is the provision of an access panel giving access to the adjacent room where its exit discharges to another corridor. In order to facilitate the trade to address the problem on dead-ends, the Administration has drawn up two additional alternative emergency escape route arrangements (see Annexes A and B). In this connection, the fire safety video to be shown to the

customers before music videos are started should include such special exit arrangements if adopted. Adequate illuminated directional signs and notices should also be prominently displayed to show the escape arrangement.

***Option A – Creation of a second emergency exit route in event of fire***

4. The proposal is to link up two adjoining dead-end corridors by transforming the two KE rooms at the end of two dead-end corridors into an exit corridor in the event of an emergency. To provide additional protection to the secondary exit, fire resistance doors are provided across two adjoining dead-ends. A door would be formed in the common partition wall of the KE rooms at the end of the dead-end corridors such that the two dead-end corridors can be linked up through this door opening in case of an emergency.

5. The doors across the dead-ends may be fitted with a hold-open device that would be automatically released upon activation of fire alarm. The door connecting the dead-ends may also be fitted with a door lock provided that such lock would also be released automatically in response to fire alarm.

6. To ensure that the emergency escape route would not be blocked, all furniture in these two rooms shall be fixed (i.e. without movable furniture). The furniture should not of course block the exit door between the two rooms.

***Option B – Utilizing access panel in other KE rooms for emergency escape***

7. The proposal is to provide additional protection to a dead-end corridor to enable patrons in a KE room not provided with emergency access panel to escape through another KE room fitted with an access panel.

8. Similar to the arrangement mentioned in paragraph 5 above, a fire resistance door is installed across the dead-end corridor to provide additional protection to patrons within the protected dead-end corridor. Patrons in the KE rooms without alternative escape route will use the access panels in the other KE rooms located within the same corridor to reach an alternative exit route, if required, in case of an emergency.

9. Under this arrangement, we will accept an access panel in one room to serve occupants in one other KE room. Depending on the length of the dead-end corridor, additional portable fire extinguisher may be required to be provided.

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