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Ms Kitty Cheng  
Assistant Legal Adviser  
Legal Service Division  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building,  
8 Jackson Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Cheng,

21 January 2011

**Building (Construction) (Amendment) Regulation 2011  
(L.N. 3 of 2011)**

Thank you for your letter of 19 January 2011. We have consulted the Buildings Department (BD) and our responses are given below in the order of your questions.

A. New Table 1

- (a) The requirement for total load in kN to be applied on beams uniformly distributed over span specified in the existing Table 1 under regulation 17 of the Building (Construction) Regulations serves to cater for the local effect of imposed loads on beams of building structures. The loading requirements specified in columns 3 and 4 of Table 1 and Section 3(7) of the Building (Construction) (Amendment) Regulation 2011 (“the Amendment Regulation”) already cater for the safe design of floors (including floors with beams underneath) of building structures and associated areas. Section 3(7) of the Amendment Regulation stipulates that where the floor (including the part of the floor with beams underneath) of a building is used to support any equipment, machinery or display item that will result in a greater imposed load than the minimum imposed load specified in Table 1 of the Amendment Regulation, the load of any of those items has to be considered in determining the imposed load on the floor (including the part of the floor

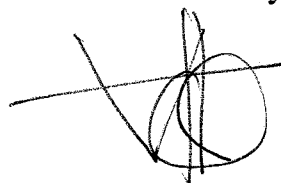
with beams underneath). This requirement already imposes control over the possible local effect on beams of building structures. Separate imposed load requirements for beams are therefore no longer essential. Other developed countries (e.g. Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom) and Mainland China also have no specific imposed load requirement on beams in their building standards/codes.

- (b) The consultancy study conducted by the BD on the actual loading situation of buildings in Hong Kong and the structural loading standards adopted by other developed countries (e.g. Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom) and Mainland China concluded that there is room to reduce the minimum imposed load requirements on certain uses of buildings (e.g. domestic use, restaurants, car parking areas, etc.). The minimum imposed load requirements (after the reduction) as stipulated in the Amendment Regulation are adequate to ensure safe design of building structures in line with local conditions and international standards.

B. New Regulation 17(4)

The mathematical formula for calculating impact forces on vehicle barriers stipulated in the new regulation 17(4) contains parameters covering the mass, velocity and deformation of vehicles as well as the deflection of the barrier under consideration. This formula is derived from established engineering principles and adopted for use in other international standards. This formula caters for the design of impact forces on vehicle barriers for all situations, including car parks, access ramps of car parks or straight ramps intended for downward travel which exceeds 20m in length as stipulated in the existing regulation 17(4). The requirements in the existing regulation 17(4) are therefore no longer necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' and 'O' with a vertical line through the 'O' and a horizontal line through the 'H'.

(C.H. Ho)

for Secretary for Development

cc. Director of Buildings (Attn: Mr C.M. Koon)