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7 April 2016

By Post and Email

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Mandy POON)

Dear Ms Poon,

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs
Follow-up to the Meeting on 27 November 2015
Revision of Fees under the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap 400)

Thank you for your email dated 30 November 2015 on the above follow-up matter.

In view of the request by the Panel on Environmental Affairs, which was made subsequent to the discussion on the captioned matter during the Panel meeting on 27 November 2015, for the Administration to set out the workflow and the cost of processing an application submitted by electronic means and in paper form for (a) a Construction Noise Permit (CNP) (for percussive piling/construction work other than percussive piling), and (b) a Noise Emission Label (NEL) (for air compressor/hand held percussive breaker) respectively, we have prepared the relevant information, which is detailed at Schedules 1 to 3:

- Schedule 1: Workflow of processing an application for a CNP;
- Schedule 2: Workflow of processing an application for an NEL; and
- Schedule 3: Costs of processing an application for a CNP and an NEL.

At the same meeting, some Members urged the Government to fully implement the use of electronic means of application under the Noise Control Ordinance. In fact, we have started to accept the applications by electronic means via EPD's website

<https://epic.epd.gov.hk/eForm/> since 2005, which are processed and approved by electronic means as well. However, many applicants still tend to apply in paper form due to their usual practices and habits, which makes the low rate and popularity in electronic application. In view of the Members' view, we have reflected it to the sector immediately, and have consulted them on our proposed full implementation of electronic application. The sector understands our proposal, but they also hope that we will further enhance the electronic application so as to encourage the sector to use it. In this connection, we have appointed a contractor to start the works related to enhancement of electronic application, processing and approval, including updating the application-related software, reducing the upload time, providing interactive guidelines, simplifying the information required for submission, making the payment of fees more convenient, and arranging priority to online applications, etc. We anticipate that the above measures will be completed by the end of this year and be launched to the sector for trial, before the full implementation of electronic application.

Please forward our reply to the Members concerned for their reference.

Yours sincerely,



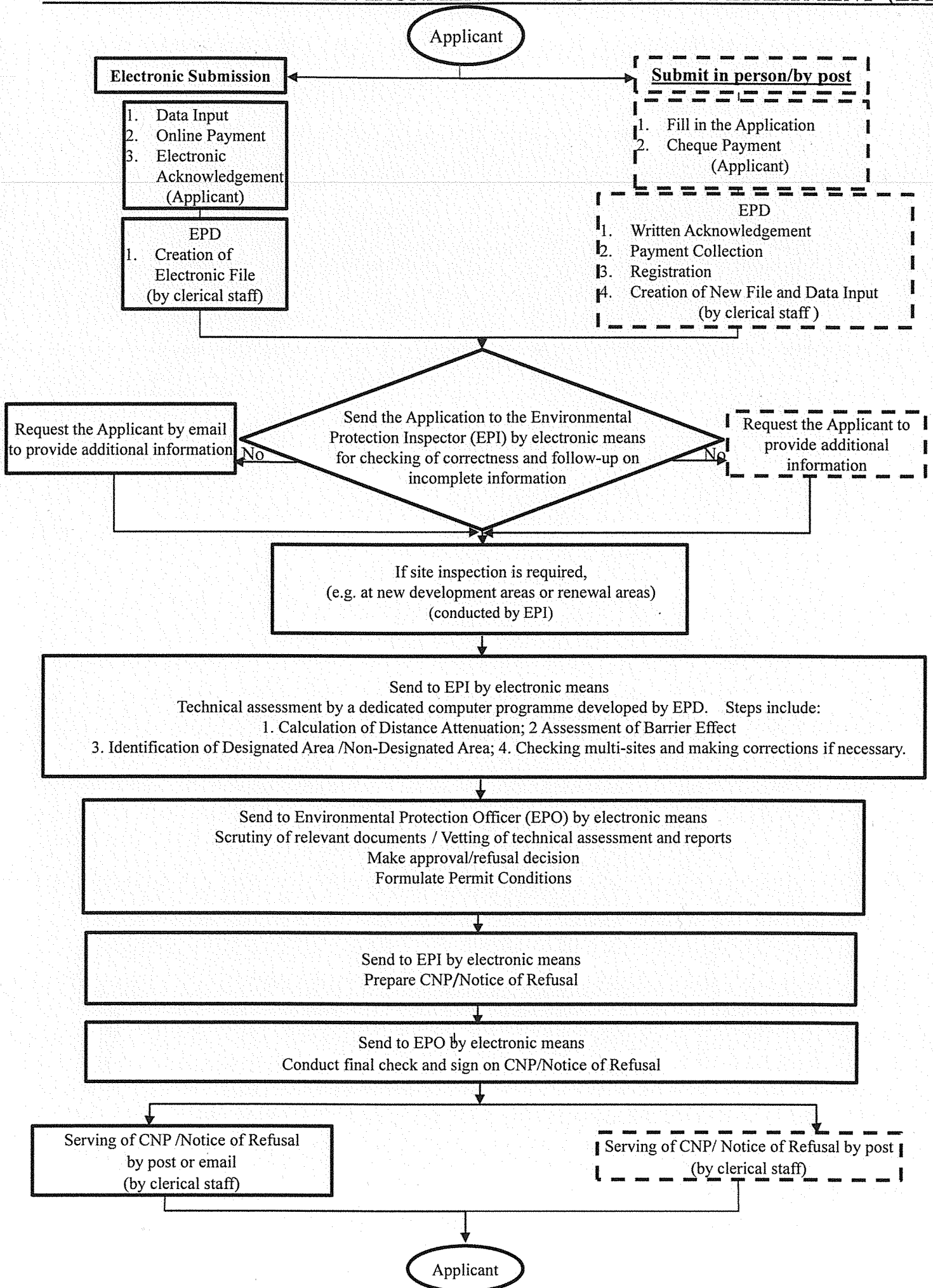
(Maurice YEUNG)

for Director of Environmental Protection

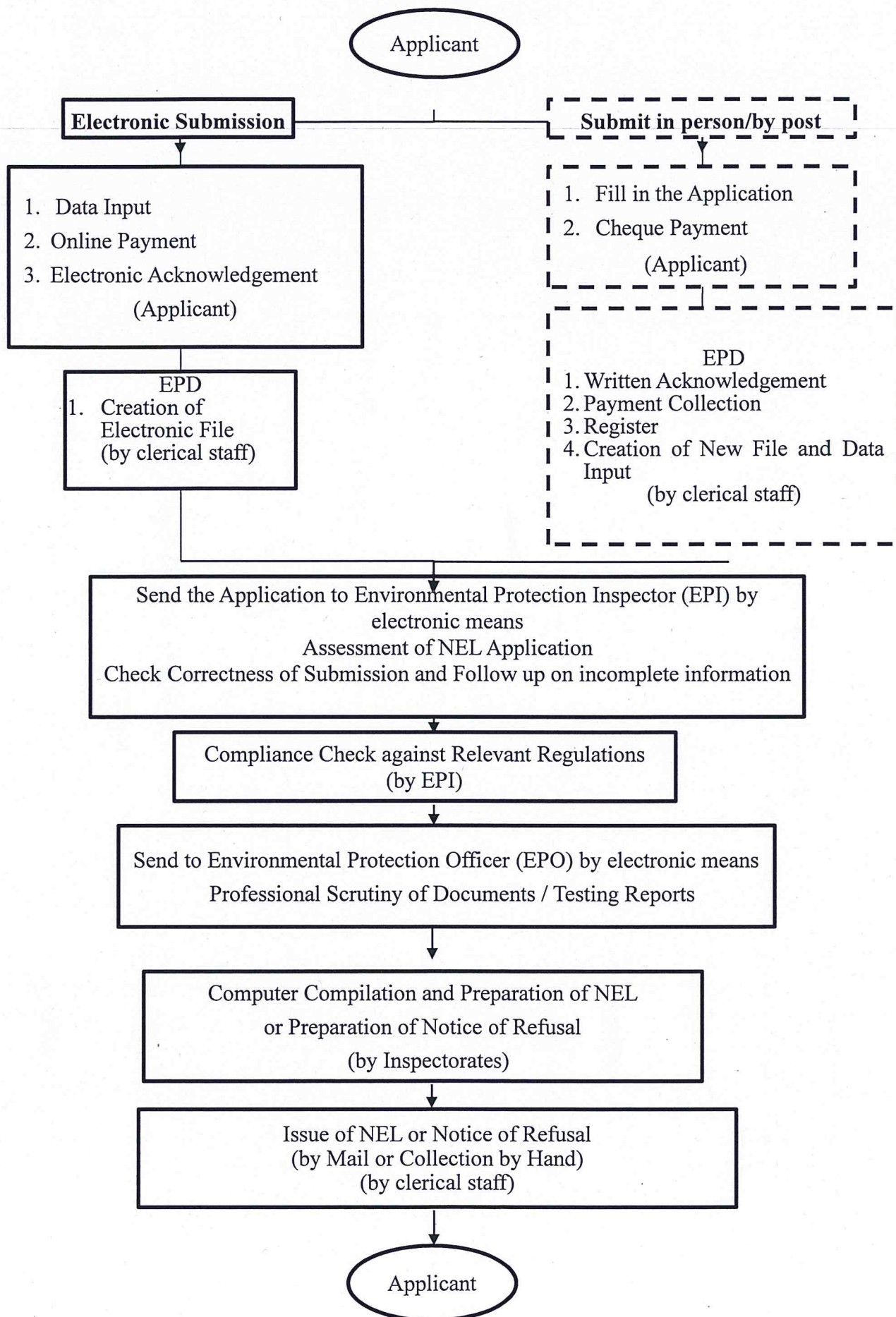
Encl: Schedules 1,2 & 3

cc: CEO (Cross-Boundary & International), EPD

**FLOW OF APPLICATION FOR A CONSTRUCTION NOISE PERMIT (CNP)
AND PROCESSING BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD)**



**FLOW OF APPLICATION FOR A NOISE EMISSION LABEL (NEL)
AND PROCESSING BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT (EPD)**



**Environmental Protection Department
Cost Calculations
Fees Payable for Construction Noise Permits and Noise Emission Labels
Under the Noise Control Ordinance
Cost Calculations Based on the Prices in 2016-17**

<u>Fee Item</u>	<u>Description of Fee Item</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u>					<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Existing Fee</u>
		<u>Staff Cost</u>	<u>Departmental Expenses</u>	<u>Accommodation Cost</u>	<u>Departmental Administrative Cost</u>	<u>Central Administrative Cost</u>		
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	
<u>Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400)</u>								
Noise Control (General) Regulations (Cap. 400A)								
1	Application fee for a construction noise permit for construction work other than percussive piling	2,086	26	90	370	62	2,606	1,000
2	Application fee for a construction noise permit for percussive piling	1,562	21	69	281	47	1,980	910

**Noise Control (Air Compressors)
Regulations (Cap. 400C)**

3	Application fee for a noise emission label for air compressor	430	2	10	77	13	532	490
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**Noise Control (Hand Held Percussive Breakers)
Regulations (Cap. 400D)**

4	Application fee for a noise emission label for hand held percussive breaker	430	2	10	77	13	532	490
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Explanatory Notes

(i) According to the Financial Circular No. 6/2006 of the Government, apart from the staff cost and departmental expenses, office accommodation cost, depreciation, the cost of services provided by other government departments and central administrative overhead costs should also be calculated.

(ii) The processing of electronic applications mainly reduces some clerical work, including written acknowledgment, charging, registration and creation of new files. Most of other vetting procedures have been dealt with through dedicated computer programmes. Therefore, the cost savings for applications submitted by electronic means is small. The cost saving for fee items 1 and 2 is \$125 and the cost saving for fee items 3 and 4 is \$21.