

Panel on Development

"Technical amendments to two pieces of subsidiary legislation made under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)" passed at the meeting held on 26 February 2019

A question raised by LegCo Members in the panel meeting on:

Regarding the proposal of including the metal supporting frames for antennas and transceivers of small cells on external walls of buildings as minor building works items under the Minor Works Control System subject to meeting the relevant radiation exposure limits, the Administration was requested to provide information to clarify whether the level of non-ionising electromagnetic radiation from each antenna/transceiver or collectively all antennas and transceivers of a small cell/ a location would be based upon to measures against the relevant radiation exposure limits.

Response:

While antennas and transceivers for public telecommunication services are not building works under the Buildings Ordinance ("BO") (Cap. 123), erection of supporting frames for antennas and transceivers projecting from external walls of buildings is building works and therefore is subject to the control of BO. The Buildings Department regulates the design, planning and construction of these frames to ensure the safety of buildings. Subject to meeting certain dimensional criteria, we propose that the erection of supporting frames projecting from the external walls of buildings be included as minor works items.

2. To ensure the radiation safety for radio installations, the Communications Authority ("CA"), in consultation with the Department of Health, has adopted the non-ionising radiation ("NIR") limits as recommended in the "Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic, and Electromagnetic Fields" issued by the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection as the radiation safety standard. CA has also issued the "Code of Practice for the Protection of Workers and Members of Public Against Non-ionising Radiation Hazards from Radio Transmitting Equipment" which sets out the aforesaid radiation safety standard for, among

others, mobile network operators (“MNO”) in operation of their radio base station (“RBS”).

3. MNOs have to apply for the CA’s approval before bringing their RBS into use. As per the advice of The Office of the Communication Authority (“OFCA”), when processing an RBS application, OFCA as the executive arm of the CA will take into account both the NIR from the RBS and the aggregate NIR from all RBS at the same location and in the vicinity to ensure compliance with the radiation safety standard before granting approval. The MNO concerned should conduct the on-site measurements within one month from the operation of the RBS to confirm that the NIR does not exceed the safety limits. Moreover, OFCA has maintained a public enquiry hotline and will conduct NIR measurements upon requests as well as random sample checks from time to time to ensure the compliance with the radiation safety standard.

Development Bureau
Buildings Department
April 2019

回應：

儘管用於公共電訊服務的天線及收發器並不屬於《建築物條例》下的建築工程，豎設用以支承自建建築物外牆伸出的天線及收發器的支承架屬建築工程，並受《建築物條例》（“《條例》”）（第123章）規管。屋宇署監管該些支承架的設計、規劃和建造，以確保樓宇安全。在符合若干尺寸標準的條件下，我們建議將豎設自建建築物外牆伸出的支承架納入為的小型工程項目。

2. 為確保無線電裝置的輻射安全，通訊事務管理局（“通訊局”）經諮詢衛生署後，已採用國際非電離輻射防護委員會制定的《限制時變電場、磁場和電磁場暴露的導則》所建議的非電離輻射限值作為輻射安全標準。通訊局亦已發出《防止無線電發射設備所發出的非電離輻射對工作人員及市民構成危險的工作守則》，為流動網絡營辦商在運作其基站時訂明上述輻射安全標準。

3. 流動網絡營辦商在啟用基站前，需向通訊局提出申請。根據通訊事務管理局辦公室(“通訊辦”)的意見，作為通訊局的執行部門，通訊辦在審核基站的申請時，會同時檢視申請所涉及基站的輻射水平，及同一地點和附近所有基站的總輻射水平，以確保符合輻射安全標準才會批准申請。有關的流動網絡營辦商須於基站啟用後的一個月內進行實地量度，以確保基站的輻射水平不會超出安全限值。此外，通訊辦已設立公眾查詢熱線，並會應要求進行輻射測量，及不時進行抽樣檢查，以確保輻射水平符合輻射安全標準。

發展局
屋宇署
2019年4月