

Legislative Council Panel on Security Meeting

On 7 January 1999

Licensing Scheme for Karaoke Establishments

Government's Response to the Four Outstanding Building Safety Requirements raised by the trade

(1) Corridor width

- 1.05 m is the minimum standard in existing code of practice, but minimum width for Places of Public Entertainment is 1.2 m.
- For existing establishments which have already installed basic fire safety measures, a corridor width of 1.05 m can be accepted by the licensing authority.

(2) Dead end

- Dead ends are possible death-traps in fire, especially when the customers are usually not familiar with the physical lay-out and fire escape route in a karaoke establishment.
- Buildings Department has demonstrated to the trade, by using different layout plans of karaoke establishments, that the problem of dead-end situation could be overcome readily without much physical works.
- Assurance has been given to the trade that a flexible and pragmatic approach will apply if such requirement were rendered impractical by the special structural design in a building.

(3) Population capacity

- We are reviewing the trade's request for a formula on population capacity within a karaoke establishment. This has to be considered carefully under the objective to allow adequate fire escape capacity within the premises.

(4) One hour fire resisting construction

- The current code of practice requires a minimum fire resistance period of one hour. This applies to any building construction required to be fire resisting in, e.g. offices, hotels and residential buildings.
- The requirement is necessary to allow time for customers to escape and firemen to conduct rescue and fire fighting in case of fire.
- Practical proposals have been made to the trade with a view to minimising the alternation works whilst meeting the requirement.

Security Bureau

7 January, 1999