



立法會

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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CB(3)/CROP/3/50  
2528 6888  
2528 2326

23 November 2011

Dear chairmen of committees,

**Admission of objects which may pose safety threat  
to conference rooms**

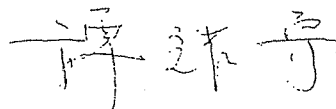
The Committee on Rules of Procedure ("CRoP") recently discussed the issue of the bringing into a meeting objects which may pose a threat to the safety of persons attending the meeting. Members noted that in a circular by the Clerk to the Legislative Council to all Members dated 2 November 2011, the President has directed that having regard to the Architectural Services Department's advice, no inflated balloons should be brought into the Chamber during Council meetings in view of the safety risks resulting from the release of inflated balloon inside the Chamber.

Members of CRoP note that as the lighting design and devices in other conference rooms of the Legislative Council Complex are similar to those in the Chamber, the release of an inflated balloon to the ceiling of these rooms may pose similar safety risks. These risks include the release of flammable substances inside the balloon upon its explosion as well as any particles of the balloon itself falling onto the upper side of the lighting ring which may not only affect the performance of the electrical switchgear at the lighting ring but may also result in potential risk to its safe operation. Besides, any rising object, such as an inflated balloon, inside the conference rooms may affect the reliable operation of the fire alarm detection system installed in these rooms and may trigger off unwanted fire alarms. Under the circumstances, CRoP considers it necessary to advise chairmen of committees not to allow inflated balloons to be brought into conference rooms during meetings. In this respect, CRoP also notes that it has also been the practice in some legislatures, such as Australia, Taiwan and the United Kingdom, that certain objects,

e.g. inflammable objects, sticks and rods, cannot be brought into meeting venues.

CRoP will further discuss whether suitable provisions should be made in the Rules of Procedure or the House Rules of the Council to prohibit the bringing into a meeting objects which may pose a safety threat to persons attending meetings in the Chamber and conference rooms, and will consult Members in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature in Chinese characters, reading '譚耀宗' (Tam Yiu-chung).

(TAM Yiu-chung)

Chairman

Committee on Rules of Procedure

c.c. Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP  
President, Legislative Council

All other Members of the Legislative Council