

LC Paper No. CB(2)1247/01-02(01)

**Information requested by the Bills Committee
at its meeting held on 10 January 2002 regarding
the Karaoke Establishments Bill**

The information requested by the Bills Committee is set out in the following paragraphs –

1. In regard to the building and safety requirements in karaoke establishments (KE) in Japan and Taiwan, to provide further information –

(a) for Japan and Taiwan, whether partitions of corridor providing means of escape from the cubicles were required to have a fire resistance period of 1 hour;

In Japan, there is no specific requirement on the fire resistance period of the corridor partitions in general. However where the corridor partitions are used as fire compartment or are important from the viewpoint of fire protection, such partitions should be able to withstand the heat of normal fires for a duration of between 30 minutes and 2 hours (similar to fire resistance period).

In Taiwan, as previously mentioned in LC Paper No. CB(2)832/01-02(03), corridor partition should be of fire resisting construction or non-inflammable material. According to definition of “fire resisting construction” provided in the relevant legislation, partitions should have fire resistance period of 1 hour.

(b) for Japan and Taiwan, what specific materials were required to be used for partitions of corridor;

In Japan, there is no specific requirement on the materials used for corridor partitions.

In Taiwan, “non-inflammable material” is defined to include concrete, brick, masonry etc. which are approved by the authority. As for the decoration materials for corridor partitions, they should be of non-inflammable boards such as gypsum board or fibre reinforced cement board.

- (c) for Japan, what was the exact meaning of the requirement “partition walls should reach above-ceiling space; and**

The requirement “partition walls should reach above-ceiling space” means that the partition walls should be up to the underside of the structural floor slab.

- (d) for Japan, whether any requirement was imposed on the width of corridor providing means of escape from the cubicles for floors with area less than 200 m².**

We cannot find any specific restrictions on corridor width for karaoke rooms if the total area of the karaoke establishment is less than 200m² (100m² in the case of basement levels).

- 2. To advise how anonymous objections raised under clause 5(3)(b) would be handled by the licensing authority, making reference to the experience of other licensing schemes.**

The value of any complaint or objection does not depend on whether it is made by a named person or otherwise. What matters is how credible and comprehensive the information contained in the complaint or objection is. An obvious drawback in handling anonymous objections is the difficulty in clarifying or seeking further information from the complainants in case this is necessary.