

**Supplementary Information requested by the Bills Committee  
at its meeting held on 9 October 2001 regarding  
the Karaoke Establishments Bill**

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

- 4. To compare the key elements of the proposed licensing scheme with those in Taiwan and Japan e.g. the required fire and building safety requirements, the consultation process and the requirement that the grantee/licensee should be an individual person.**

We have attempted to research into the requirements of Taiwan and Japan on the control of karaoke establishments. In both places, there is no separate licensing system for karaoke establishments. Karaoke facilities are classified and controlled as places of entertainment, such as nightclubs and bars.

Due to limitation in the scope of and time for the research, the findings only cover some key elements in the control of karaoke establishments in Taiwan and Japan, as compared with Hong Kong. Precise comparison of technical standards are also not possible because of the different systems used in the different places, as well as their different social environments and modes of building control.

Please refer to the comparison table at Annex.

**Comparison of Building Safety and Fire Services Requirements of Karaoke Establishments  
in Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan**

<b>Building Safety &amp; Fire Services Requirements in the Proposed Karaoke Establishments Bill</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>
<b>General</b>	Karaoke facilities are classified and controlled as ordinary entertainment places. The Tokyo Fire Department implements fire safety measures for karaoke facilities on the basis of “The Fire Safety Measure for Karaoke Facilities”	Audio-visual singing establishments are classified as Category A premises. They are subject to fire services legislation and must comply with the requirements set out in the “Standards for Fire Safety Equipment and Installations for All Establishments”.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Building Safety Requirements</b></p> <p>1. The corridor providing means of escape from the cubicles shall have a fire resistance period of 1 hour.</p>	Under certain circumstances, partition walls, which are important from the viewpoint of fire protection should be fireproof, quasi-fireproof or fire preventive construction and reach above-ceiling space.	Partitions of corridor leading to escape staircases should be of fire resisting construction or non-flammable materials.

<b>Building Safety &amp; Fire Services Requirements in the Proposed Karaoke Establishments Bill</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>
<p>2. The corridor providing means of escape from the cubicles shall have a width of not less than 1.2 metres.</p> <p>3. Dead-end situation is not allowed so that the exit from each cubicle shall have at least two directions of travel to a staircase or means of escape.</p>	<p>Other than premises with corridor exclusively used for not more than three rooms, 1.6m wide corridor serving rooms continuously for entertainment on both sides or 1.2m wide corridor not serving rooms used continuously for entertainment on both sides should be provided for premises with total floor area exceeding 200m<sup>2</sup> (100m<sup>2</sup> in basement situation).</p> <p>Rooms on the same floor as karaoke boxes shall be provided with two-way escapes.</p>	<p><u>For floors with area exceeding 200m<sup>2</sup></u> 1.6m wide corridors with occupation rooms on both sides or 1.1m wide corridor with occupation rooms on one side only.</p> <p><u>For floors with area less than 200m<sup>2</sup></u> 1.1 m wide corridor</p> <p>The travel distance to the exit staircases shall not exceed 30m for buildings less than 15 storeys and 20m for buildings more than 15 storeys.</p>
<p><b>Fire Services Requirements -</b></p> <p><b>General Requirements</b></p> <p>1. All combustible materials used as false ceilings, partitions or wall furnishings must meet British Standard 476: Part 7 Class 1 or 2 Rate of Surface Spread of Flame, or must be brought up to that standard by treating with an approved fire retardant paint or solution.</p>		

<b>Building Safety &amp; Fire Services Requirements in the Proposed Karaoke Establishments Bill</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>
<p>2. All draperies and curtains if installed, must be made of materials containing fire resistant fabric and conform to British Standard 5867: Part 2 fabric type B when tested in accordance with British Standard 5438, or must be brought up to that standard by treating with an approved fire retardant paint or solution.</p> <p>3. The carpets within the protected means of escape must be made of pure wool or must comply with British Standard 5287 when tested in accordance with British Standard 4790, equivalent international standards are acceptable. If the carpet does not conform to the above standards but the pile height of which does not exceed 10mm, the area to be carpeted may be allowed for not exceeding 5% of the protected means of escape calculated on the floor by floor basis.</p> <p>4. All mattresses must comply with British Standard 7177, medium hazard, or its international equivalent.</p> <p>5. All upholstered furniture containing Polyurethane Foam must comply with British Standard 7176, medium hazard, or its international equivalent.</p> <p>6. If the original windows provided in accordance with the building plans approved by the Building Authority are sealed up by more than 50%, a smoke extraction system must be provided.</p>		<p>Similar requirements for buildings exceeding 11 storeys, underground premises and establishments specified by the central competent authorities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ditto</p>

<b>Building Safety &amp; Fire Services Requirements in the Proposed Karaoke Establishments Bill</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>
<p>7. All exits must be indicated by illuminated signs bearing the word and characters “EXIT 出口” of not less than 125mm high with 15mm wide strokes. Adequate directional signs must be provided at those locations where exit signs are not readily visible.</p> <p>8. Low level directional signs capable of indicating the exit direction in darkness must be provided at 200mm above floor level.</p> <p>9. A schematic exit plan showing the floor layout and the directions of egress to escape staircases and their means of escape must be displayed at each room intended to be used by customers. The size of exit plan must not be less than 250 mm x 250 mm and be affixed adjacent to the exit at a height of 1,500 mm above the floor.</p> <p>10. Emergency lighting must be provided.</p> <p>11. A short fire safety film must be shown to the customers before the karaoke activity is started.</p> <p>12. Employees of karaoke establishments must have received fire safety training provided by the Fire Services Department at least once in every 12 months. Training courses provided by other training institutions and approved by the Fire Services Department are acceptable.</p>	<p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p>	<p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p>

<b>Building Safety &amp; Fire Services Requirements in the Proposed Karaoke Establishments Bill</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>
<p><b>Fire service installations and equipment</b></p> <p>13. Fire hydrant/hose reel system;</p> <p>14. Manual fire alarm system</p> <p>15. Alarm bells of the fire alarm system must be provided at individual rooms intended for use by customers;</p> <p>16. Automatic fire alarm system must be provided if the premises occupy an area exceeding 126m<sup>2</sup>;</p> <p>17. Sprinkler system must be provided if the premises -</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(i) are located in a curtain-walled building or a basement floor and occupy an area exceeding 126m<sup>2</sup>; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(ii) are located in other types of building and occupy an area exceeding 230m<sup>2</sup>;</p> <p>18. Dedicated smoke extraction system must be provided if the premises are located in a curtain-walled building or a basement floor with a cubic volume exceeding 7,000m<sup>3</sup>;</p>	<p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements</p> <p>Similar requirements for basement or windowless floors with floor area of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or more.</p>	<p>Similar requirements for buildings not exceeding 5 storeys, floor area&gt;300m<sup>2</sup>; for buildings exceeding 6 storeys, floor area&gt;150m<sup>2</sup>; total floor area of ground floor&gt;150m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Similar requirements for buildings exceeding 3 storeys, floor area&gt;200m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Similar requirements for buildings not exceeding 5 storeys, floor area&gt;300m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Similar requirements for buildings not exceeding 10 storeys with total floor area &gt;300m<sup>2</sup> and for buildings exceeding 10 storeys irrespective of floor area.</p> <p>Similar requirements where total floor area&gt;500m<sup>2</sup>.</p>

<b>Building Safety &amp; Fire Services Requirements in the Proposed Karaoke Establishments Bill</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>
19. Audio-visual advisory system which can interrupt or override the music or other sound and visual images produced by the karaoke equipment in case of an alarm must be provided.	Similar requirements	Similar requirements
<b>Ventilation System</b> 20. All ventilation system installed in the premises must comply with all relevant statutory requirements. 21. Automatic cut-off devices must be provided for mechanical ventilating systems.		
<b>Consultation Process</b>	No such information.	No such information.
<b>Requirement that the grantee/licensee should be an individual person<sup>1</sup></b>	No such information.	No such information.

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<sup>1</sup> The KE Bill does not require that the grantee/ licensee must be an individual person. Clause 7 only requires the appointment of authorized representative in case the applicant is a body corporate or a partnership.