



Our Ref: HKIE(793-03)

19 March 2004

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Chairman
Bills Committee on Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Chairlady,

Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003

We refer to the most recent Government's proposal on amendments to the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003.

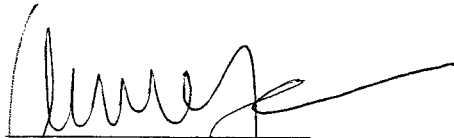
The HKIE is in agreement with the Government amendments:

- Practice Notes to AP & RSE (PNAPs) are to be included in the amendment bill specifying the technical details of responsibilities among the AP, RSE and RGE; the Grandfathering provision for AP/RSE to be registered as RGE as well as RSE/RGE's responsibilities for an excavation and lateral support plan.
- The level of fines under section 40(1AA), (1BA), (2A), (2AB), (2AC), (2B) and (2C) of the BO shall be made with reference to the composite Consumer Price Index which means increase of 3 or 4 times.
- The imprisonment term will be deleted from the offence under Section 40(2AA) of the BO while the level of fine is to be as latest proposed by Buildings Department.
- Separate penalty at a lower level for similar offences relating to minor works as proposed by the Buildings Department.
- Amendment to the offence provision under Section 40(1C) relating to the display of building numbers and street names is to be referred to the LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works for further consideration.

However, we would like to raise your attention again to our request on reducing the proposed charge on photocopy of documents. The proposed charge of \$38 per each page of A4 size print as stated in clause 74(k) of the Bill on amendment to Building (Administration) Regulation 42 is highly unacceptable because a calculations report can be hundreds of pages of computer printout. The Xerox charges are in fact paid directly by the public making alterations to their flat or decorating their shops. In view of market Xeroxing charge is under \$1, we strongly urge that the Bills Committee could look into the matter and make appropriate amendment to the charges in line with the Political Parties' commitment to the public on fees increase charged to the public by Government.

The HKIE is pleased to support the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003 and recent amendments initiated by the Administration.

Yours sincerely



Ir/Dr Greg C Y WONG
Vice President

cc Ir Dr the Hon Raymond HO
The Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him
The Hon Margaret NG
The Hon Audrey EU, SC
The Hon LAU Ping-cheung
The HKIA
The HKIS
The HKCA
The Buildings Department – Mr. C K Au
HKIE – Desmond Lam