

Building (Refuse Storage and Material Recovery Chambers and Refuse Chutes) (Amendment) Regulation 2008

Proposed Amendment Relating to Exemption for Hostels and Dormitories

Background

At the Subcommittee meetings held on 30 May 2008 and 16 June 2008, considerable deliberations were given to the issue of exempting any part of a building that was designed for use as hostel or dormitory from the proposed mandatory requirement for the provision of refuse storage and material recovery room (“RSMRR”) on every floor.

Arrangement under the Original Proposal

2. In Hong Kong, hostel and dormitory are buildings which provide lodging predominately for university students, nurses and elderly people. Virtually all existing hostels and dormitories for university students and nurses have a communal pantry or kitchen on every floor, which is a suitable and convenient place to accommodate refuse bins and waste recycling facilities. For new hostels and dormitories, it is anticipated that similar communal pantry or kitchen would be provided on each floor, in line with the existing design pattern. As such, waste recycling facilities could be conveniently accommodated in these common areas. Hence, the Administration proposed under the new section 3A(5) of the Amendment Regulation that a building which is designed for use as hostel or dormitory be exempted from the mandatory requirement to provide RSMRR.

Views of Members of the Subcommittee

3. At the Subcommittee meetings, Members expressed different views on the exemption of hostel and dormitory from the mandatory requirement. Some Members hold a strong view that hostel and dormitory should not be exempted from the mandatory requirement as having a separate RSMRR on every floor of these types of building would encourage waste recovery..

Proposed Way Forward

4. Having considered Members' comments and the policy intention of introducing the mandatory requirements for the provision of RSMRR on every floor, the Administration proposes to remove "hostel or dormitory" from the new section 3A(5) of the Amendment Regulation. An amendment to the Amendment Regulation will be undertaken by the Administration. Members are invited to consider the proposed amendment.

Environmental Protection Department / Buildings Department
19 June 2008