



香港建築師學會

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Our Ref. : BLA/LC/WAB/MC/cw/1706

Your Ref. : CB1/BC/4/16

10 June 2017

By Email and By Post

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Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok SBS MH JP

Chairman

Bills Committee on Waterworks (Amendment) Bill 2017

Legislative Council

Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road

Central

Hong Kong

Dear Ir Dr Hon Lo

Bills Committee on Waterworks (Amendment) Bill 2017

Invitation for submissions

Thank you for your letter dated 23 May 2017 inviting the Institute to give views at the Bills Committee on Waterworks (Amendment) Bill 2017 meeting on 12 June 2017 and/or provide written submission on the subject.

The Institute is pleased to deliver our written views on the Waterworks (Amendment) Bill 2017. Enclosed please find our written submission for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Marvin Chen FHKIA RA

President

Encl



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Written Submission to Bills Committee on Waterworks (Amendment) Bill 2017 of the Legislative Council

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) supports the Waterworks (Amendment) Bill for the setting up of the schedule for Registered Plumbing Workers for the construction, installation, maintenance, alteration, repair or removal of specified plumbing works in the Amendment Bill. As pointed out by the Legislative Council (LC) Brief, it has been the industry practice over the past years that licensed plumbers (LPs) are normally assisted by workers in carrying out plumbing works, hence skilled workers or semi-skilled workers for the relevant designated trades registered under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (CWRO) should be qualified to carry out plumbing works under the Waterworks Ordinance.

However, our Institute wishes to reiterate that the principle of “designated workers for designated skills” should also be applied in design and supervision stages by stipulating the relevant qualified persons to carry out design and supervision of plumbing works so as to enhance its quality from design all the way to construction, etc. With the increasing complexity of the plumbing installations nowadays, it is an industry-wide practice to separately engage Building Services Consultants (BSC) and Resident Site Supervisory Personnel (RSS) trained in the relevant disciplines, rather than the Architect, to take up the design and supervision of plumbing installations.

The respective role and responsibilities on design and supervision of plumbing installations amongst different building professionals / specialists should be properly defined in the statutory regime. It is recommended that the role of Registered Plumbing Engineer (RPE) shall be incorporated to the statutory framework. Similar to the nature and responsibilities of the Registered Structural Engineer and the Registered Geotechnical Engineer, the RPE will take up the responsibility of design and supervision of plumbing works.

The register of RPE and their appointment for the plumbing works of a building project will enhance the public safety and health since only suitably qualified and experienced plumbing engineers can undertake the design and supervision of plumbing works and they will be held statutorily responsible to ensure the quality of the plumbing installations.

Under the suggested statutory framework, the Architect / Authorized Person shall retain his/her role as the coordinator of the building project to ensure design layout in compliance with the Ordinances, and is responsible for administrative works on statutory procedures. The duty to verify technical conformity and certifying compliance works related to plumbing works shall be undertaken by the RPE.