

**Subcommittee on Waterworks (Amendment) Regulation 2017  
("The Amendment Regulation")**

**Response to the List of follow-up actions arising from  
the discussion at the meeting on 27 June 2017**

**Response to item (a)**

*Proposed amendment in LC Paper No. CB(1)1221/16-17(02)*

*Item 1*

We agree in principle that the matters proposed to be stated in the proposed regulation 20(2)(a) and 20(2)(b) of the Waterworks Regulations (Cap. 102A) ("WWR") are the two factors that the Water Authority ("WA") would consider in exercising the power under regulation 20(2). We will propose a resolution to that effect and submit to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") for consideration in due course.

*Item 2*

2. After deliberation at the meeting, Dr Hon Helena WONG has withdrawn the proposed amendment to regulation 20(3) of the WWR.

*Item 3*

3. We agree in principle that the same two factors as provided in the proposed regulation 20(2)(a) and 20(2)(b) of the WWR would be taken into account when the WA exercises the power under regulation 25(2) of the WWR. We will propose a resolution to that effect and submit to the LegCo for consideration in due course.

*Items 4 & 5*

4. We clarified at the meeting that British Standard 6920 series apply to all non-metallic materials and products for use in contact with water intended for human consumption, including other non-metallic materials and products in other parts of Schedule 2 of the WWR. After deliberation at the meeting, we will propose a resolution to add a note after paragraph 23 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the WWR to annotate its scope of application.

*Item 6 & proposed amendment in LC Paper No. CB(1)1221/16-17(03)*

5. We decline to adopt these two items at the Amendment Regulation and will address them in the coming holistic review of the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap.102) and WWR.

6. We noted that the Subcommittee has agreed to propose separate resolutions to incorporate these two items into the WWR. We have reservation on these proposed amendments as they may be outside the scope of the Amendment Regulation. We are seeking legal advice on this issue and will submit to the LegCo our finding and position in due course.

**Response to item (b)**

7. In regard to matters relating to the technical aspects of plumbing materials and trade practice, the Water Supplies Department (“WSD”) will seek the advice of the Technical Committee on Plumbing (“TCP”). The TCP comprises representatives from the professional bodies, plumbing trade, construction industries, suppliers, standards organization, accredited laboratories and government officials from various departments. The composition of the TCP is at **Annex**.

8. On the other hand, in regard to matters relating to the quality and safety of drinking water, the WSD will consult other local and overseas experts, including the Department of Health and other water quality and material experts, on the effect of the plumbing materials on health.

**Response to item (c)**

9. It is our current practice that the WA holds regular meetings with TCP members (including a representative from the accredited laboratories who is well aware of the requirements conforming to the WWR) to, inter alia, formulate the testing criteria of the plumbing materials. In practice, the WA has set up a general acceptance (“GA”) system on plumbing materials. The suppliers will follow the testing criteria of a plumbing material and submit to the WA test report issued by an accredited laboratory. The WA will check and verify the test report prior to granting for the GA to such a plumbing material.

10. Having regard to the discussions at the meeting on 27 June 2017, the WA will issue a guideline on examination of electroplating material on the wetted surface of water taps to the accredited laboratories, as well as relevant stakeholders in the plumbing industry, for reference.

**Response to item (d)**

11. Pursuant to regulation 7 of the WWR, a registered consumer shall be responsible for keeping an inside service clean while the responsibility for keeping clean any part of an inside service which is a communal service shall be that of a registered agent. In this regard, the custody and maintenance of the communal service, including the cleansing of the water tanks/storage cisterns, are usually undertaken by a property management office who is acting as the registered agent of a building.

12. With a view providing the consumers and agents with advice on how to inspect and maintain their fresh water plumbing systems properly, the WSD has published a “Fresh Water Plumbing Maintenance Guide” which describes recommended practices for proper maintenance of inside service, including the steps and frequency for cleansing of water tanks. A guideline on cleansing of fresh water storage tank is also available on the website of WSD for the reference of the public.

13. In addition, the WSD also launched the “Fresh Water Plumbing Quality Maintenance Recognition Scheme” in July 2002 to promote proper maintenance of internal plumbing systems through the participation of the property management office or the registered agent. The programme was further enhanced in December 2015 to become the “Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings - Fresh Water (Plus)” (the Scheme). Under the Scheme, the WSD will assess the applications according to the following criteria:

- (a) The internal plumbing system is inspected at least once every 3 months by qualified persons (such as licensed plumbers, building services engineers or building surveyors) and is found to be in good physical condition. All defects identified in the inspections are promptly rectified by qualified persons;
- (b) The water tanks are cleansed at least once every 3 months; and

- (c) Water samples are taken in accordance with the required procedures and tested for items specified with results complying with the acceptable limits, at least once for new/renewal applications.

14. The WSD will also conduct random inspections to selected plumbing systems for site audit checking of the application. The WSD will award certificates to buildings to recognize their success in proper maintenance of their internal plumbing systems with a validity period of 2 years. As at 6 June 2017, a total of 1916 buildings are awarded the Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings – Fresh Water (Plus) Certificate.

15. Apart from the publication and promotion works above, the WA would also undertake appropriate actions where complaint is received. In case the conditions of the inside service are not satisfactory, the WA may issue a notice to the registered consumers and/or registered agents for rectification, including cleansing of water tanks.

**Development Bureau**  
**29 June 2017**

### Composition of Technical Committee on Plumbing

Membership Category	Post/Organisations
Chairperson	Assistant Director/Customer Services, WSD
Professionals	A representative from each of the following professional bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers</li> <li>• The Hong Kong Institute of Architects</li> <li>• The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors</li> </ul>
Plumbing Trade	A representative from each of the following associations/institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association Ltd. (HKPSWTA)</li> <li>• The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering – Hong Kong Branch Ltd.</li> <li>• The Hong Kong Institution of Plumbing and Drainage Ltd.</li> <li>• Hong Kong Licensed Plumbing Professionals Association Ltd.</li> <li>• Hong Kong Water Works Professionals Association Ltd.</li> </ul>
Construction Association	A representative from each of the following associations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hong Kong Construction Association Ltd.</li> <li>• Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Ltd.</li> <li>• Contractor's Authorised Signatory Association Ltd.</li> <li>• Registered Minor Works Contractor Signatory Association Ltd.</li> <li>• The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association Co., Ltd.</li> <li>• The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Ltd.</li> </ul>
Suppliers	Three representatives from suppliers of plumbing materials (nominated by HKPSWTA)
Standards Organisation	A representative from BSI Hong Kong
Laboratory	A representative from the Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Ltd.
Property Sector	A representative from the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong ( <i>Ad-hoc</i> )
Official Members	Chief Engineer/Customer Services, WSD
	Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance, WSD
	Senior Mechanical Engineer/Customer Services (Material Control), WSD
	Senior Engineer/Customer Services (Technical Support) 2, WSD
	A representative from Architectural Services Department
	A representative from Housing Department
	A representative from Buildings Department ( <i>Ad-hoc</i> )
A representative from Fire Services Department ( <i>Ad-hoc</i> )	
Secretary	Senior Engineer/Customer Services (Technical Support) 1, WSD

**Total: 26 members**

*(Three ad-hoc members and the Secretary have been excluded.)*