

(Translation)

香港特別行政區政府
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

運輸及房屋局

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2 June 2017

Mr Derek Lo
Clerk to Legislative Council Panel on Housing
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lo,

Legislative Council Panel on Housing
Fire Resisting Cables in Public Housing Estates

Your letter dated 5 May 2017 relaying the Hon Jeremy Tam Man-ho's letter dated 4 May 2017 to the Panel on Housing regarding fire resisting cables (FRCs) in public housing estates (LC Paper No. CB(1)902/16-17(01)) was received. The Government has provided detailed response to a Legislative Council Member's question about the relevant matter at the Legislative Council meeting on 10 May 2017¹. Key points in our response is summarised below for Members' reference.

2. All fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) shall comply with the "Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment" issued by the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the international standards and requirements as specified in the relevant FSD Circular Letters. As for

¹ For details, please refer to: <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201705/10/P2017051000415.htm>.

FRCs used in FSIs (such as fire alarm systems and sprinkler systems), they shall generally meet the British Standard BS6387 – “Test method for resistance to fire of cables required to maintain circuit integrity under fire conditions”, i.e. such cables should be able to maintain the circuit integrity and signal transmission for a specified period of time under high temperature, water spray and mechanical shock.

3. FSD has stringent procedures in place for verifying the compliance of FSIs, including FRCs, with the standards and requirements as stipulated in the “Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment”, as well as relevant FSD Circular Letters. When a registered fire service installation contractor (RFSIC) applies to FSD for acceptance inspection of FSIs in regard to a specific project, the RFSIC is required to ascertain the model of the FRCs installed, and submit relevant supporting documents for FSD’s verification. FSD personnel will also conduct on-site checking of the FRCs installed, verify the markings thereon and test the fire service systems concerned.

4. The established arrangement of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) is in compliance with the above-mentioned requirements of FSD, as well as the on-site checking and test of the Department. Furthermore, in accordance with the established procedures, HA reviews the relevant certificates² and markings on the FRCs at different stages of construction to ensure that all FRCs installed comply with the international standards and requirements as stipulated by FSD.

5. Regarding the public housing estates mentioned in Hon Jeremy Tam’s letter³, it is necessary for the relevant FSIs to go through the above-mentioned verification procedures and the materials used must comply with the international standards and requirements as specified by FSD in order to pass the acceptance inspection of FSD. FRCs used in FSIs in On Tat Estate in Kwun Tong, Phase 2 of Shui Chuen O Estate in Sha Tin and Kai Ching Estate in Kowloon City have been inspected and found to comply with the relevant international standards and requirements. Apart from this, the FSIs in Yan Tin Estate in Tuen Mun, which is still under construction, will also be inspected for acceptance in accordance with the same standard.

² The product certification bodies will carry out regular inspections. At the same time, effective quality control systems and product certifications are required to be maintained for relevant products, to ensure that their quality is in line with the standards and requirements. If products do not pass the regular inspections, the product certification bodies may consider suspending or withdrawing the product certifications.

³ Among the estates mentioned in the letter, FRCs used in On Tat Estate in Kwun Tong, Yan Tin Estate in Tuen Mun and Phase 2 of Shui Chuen O Estate in Sha Tin are of the same model. Such FRCs were not used in Kai Ching Estate in Kowloon City.

6. On 27 April 2017, HA also conducted a functional testing of the fire services system in On Tat Estate, Kwun Tong, under the observation of FSD, to verify the fail-safe design of the FRC in the signalling circuitry of the fire services system. The test results indicate that the fire services system operates normally, including that if the FRC is damaged in fire or for other reasons, the fire services system can trigger warning signal or enable the fire services equipment such as fire services pump and standby-by generator, to continue in operation as required under the relevant circumstances.

7. If Members have any enquiry regarding FRCs used in public housing estates, we will provide information for reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Original Signed)

(Jerry Cheung)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing