



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref : FHB/H(P)/34/69/3 Pt.3

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16 April 2019

Clerk to Panel
(Attn.: Ms Kay CHU)
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax: 2185 7845)

Dear Ms Chu,

Panel on Health Services
Letter from Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT
concerning Asbestos found in the Prince of Wales Hospital

Thank you for your letter dated 26 March 2019 referring Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT's letter in respect of the incident concerning asbestos found in the building of the Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH). Having consulted the Hospital Authority (HA), our response is given below.

Asbestos was commonly used in the construction, manufacturing and shipping industries of Hong Kong in the past. Designed and constructed in the 1970s, PWH therefore had the chance to have asbestos containing materials (ACMs) in its hospital buildings that were built before the mid-1980s. The Architectural Services Department commissioned an asbestos investigation for PWH in 1997 with engagement of registered asbestos consultant. In order not to affect the normal operation of the PWH buildings, the asbestos consultant took samples from materials

possibly containing asbestos through random sampling, and conducted laboratory analysis. Samples taken confirmed the presence of asbestos mainly in false ceiling finishes. Asbestos abatement plan was implemented at locations where asbestos was found in accordance with the prevailing codes of practice of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the relevant legal requirements.

In 2018, PWH kicked off its Phase II Redevelopment Project (Stage 1), under which the hospital quarters and the Lecture Theatre Building would be demolished. Before the commencement of the demolition works, HA has followed the established procedures on undertaking demolition works and acted in compliance with the requirements of the Buildings Department pursuant to relevant legislations to arrange registered asbestos consultant to carry out an asbestos survey. The registered asbestos consultant has identified ACMs during the survey. The identified ACMs were subsequently abated or managed in accordance with relevant legislations and codes of practice of EPD. For the sake of safety precaution, HA will also arrange asbestos investigation before commencement of any other alteration and maintenance works. Once existence of ACMs is confirmed, asbestos management plans (AMP) and asbestos abatement plans (AAP) (depending on the ACM condition) will be carried out following the codes of practice of EPD and relevant statutory requirements.

According to the asbestos survey that had been carried out at the planned work sites, ACM were found in various locations including exhaust duct, water pipe gasket inside pipe duct, G/F to 11/F switch rooms, B/F Plant room and incinerator of the Special Block; and the switch rooms on 7/F to 10/F of the Lui Che Woo Clinical Sciences Building, and the plant rooms on B/F to 1/F of the Day Treatment Block and Children Wards, etc. These building services installations were constructed before the mid-1980s. They are beyond reach of general staff and patients under normal circumstances. Under proper management, the chance of asbestos fibers being released into the air is very low and hence will not pose risk to human health. In fact, results of air sampling at 3/F to 8/F of the Special Block met EPD's and international standards, posing no health risk to humans. Air sampling results of the remaining floors of the Special Block and the selected areas in other buildings will be available soon.

HA has requested the asbestos consultant to submit asbestos investigation reports to EPD and prepare AAP or AMP as appropriate in accordance with the codes of practice of EPD and relevant legal requirements.

The asbestos consultant and contractor have meanwhile cordoned off the concerned work sites and posted warning signs to alert passers-by to ensure that the materials would not be disturbed. Briefing sessions have been arranged to update hospital staff.

HA will continue to follow up on the matter appropriately in accordance with prevailing standards and statutory requirements.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Elaine YIP)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Chief Executive, Hospital Authority – Fax : 2895 0937
(Attn.: Ms Dorothy LAM)