

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF**

**Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)**

**BUILDING (ADMINISTRATION) (AMENDMENT)**

**REGULATION 2000**

**INTRODUCTION**

Section 29A of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) empowers the Financial Secretary (which means also the Secretary for the Treasury by virtue of section 3 of Cap. 1) to vary fees which have previously been fixed by subsidiary legislation made by the Chief Executive in Council.

2. In exercise of this power, the Secretary for the Treasury has made the Amendment Regulation at Annex A to reduce the fee for providing a certified copy of a document specified in the Building (Administration) Regulations made pursuant to the Buildings Ordinance.

**BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT**

3. Under section 36 of the Buildings Ordinance, the Building Authority or any public officer authorised by him may, upon payment of the prescribed fee, certify and issue copies, prints or extracts of any document issued for the purpose of the Ordinance to any person requiring the same. The fee was last revised in June 1995.

4. It is Government policy that fees should in general be set at levels sufficient to recover the full cost of providing the services. Costing reviews are normally conducted every four years. A recent costing review indicated that the full cost of providing a certified copy of a document at 2000-01 prices is \$45.

5. The cost reduction is the result of streamlining of procedures and improvements in efficiency with the aid of information technology. To reflect the latest cost of the services, we propose to reduce the fee from \$190 to \$45. Annex B provides the cost computation.

## **THE REGULATION**

6. The Amendment Regulation revises the fee for providing a certified copy of a document from \$190 to \$45. We propose that the new fee should come into effect on 1 July 2000.

## **EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES**

7. Buildings Department has recently streamlined its procedures and information access system in retrieving and copying documents. As a result, the time for retrieving documents has been significantly reduced. Buildings Department will regularly review its procedures with an aim to further reducing the retrieval time and hence the costs.

## **FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

8. The fee proposal will result in a reduction in revenue of about \$1.5M per annum. There are no staffing implications.

## **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

9. The proposed fee revision will reduce the operating costs of those engaged in the trade.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

10. We have consulted the Building Sub-committee of the Land and Building Advisory Committee and the Authorised Persons and Registered Structural Engineers Committee on the proposed fee revision. They have supported our proposal to simplify the administrative procedures and thereby reduce the fees for the service.

## **PUBLICITY**

11. The Amendment Regulation will be published in the Gazette on 19 May 2000. A press release to announce the fee reduction will be issued on the same day. A spokesman will be available for answering media enquiries.

## **ENQUIRIES**

12. For enquiries, please contact Mr AU Choi-kai, Assistant Director/Legal and Management of the Buildings Department at 2626 1130.

Planning and Lands Bureau

May 2000

**BUILDING (ADMINISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2000**

(Made under section 38(1A) of the Buildings  
Ordinance (Cap. 123) and section 29A  
of the Interpretation and General  
Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1))

**1. Commencement**

This Regulation shall come into operation on 1 July 2000.

**2. Fees**

Regulation 42 of the Building (Administration) Regulations (Cap. 123 sub. leg.) is amended, in the Table of Fees, in item 10(a), by repealing "\$190" and substituting "\$45".

Secretary for the Treasury

15 May 2000

**Explanatory Note**

This Regulation amends the Building (Administration) Regulations (Cap. 123 sub. leg.) to reduce the fee payable for a certified copy, print or extract, issued under section 36 of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123), of or from any document (other than a plan) or any

microfilm or other record of such document from \$190 to \$45.

**COST COMPUTATION**

**Buildings Department**

**Fee for provision of a certified copy of a document  
payable under the Building (Administration) Regulations**

**Cost at 2000-01 Prices  
(for processing one case)**

	\$
Staff Costs	35
Departmental Expenses	2
Accommodation Costs	2
Central Administrative Overhead	6
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<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>45</b>
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Proposed fee	45