

By post and by fax at 2824 0578

16 November 2016

Water Supplies Department  
Legislative Review Unit  
46/F, Immigration Tower,  
7 Gloucester Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

[Attn: Ir Bobby NG Mang Tung, Team Leader]


Dear Ir NG

**Views to Public Consultation on Amendments to the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102) and Waterworks Regulations (Cap. 102A) on Construction, etc. of Fire Services and Inside Services and Updating of Technical Requirements and Pipe and Fitting Standards for Plumbing Works**

With reference to the captioned Public Consultation released by your Department in September 2016, I am pleased to provide herewith the views and suggestions of the Institution on the subject for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



Ir Joseph CHOI Kin Hung  
President  
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

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**Enclosure**

**Views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers to  
Public Consultation on Amendments to the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102) and  
Waterworks Regulations (Cap. 102A) on Construction, etc. of Fire Services and  
Inside Services and Updating of Technical Requirements and Pipe and Fitting  
Standards for Plumbing Works**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) opines that there is an imminent need to strengthen the review and the inspection processes during the design, construction, alteration or removal of the plumbing and fire services waterworks for the sake of protection of public health in water use.

2. With regard to the concerned Consultation Document, the HKIE agrees in principle to the proposed amendments in respect of clarifying the personnel for carrying out plumbing works and updating the technical requirements and pipe and fitting standards for plumbing works, as mentioned in Item (a) and Item (c).

3. However, as for the proposed amendment (b) *Obligation of the LP who has sought the permission under section 14(1) of the WWO* in the Consultation Document, it is suggested to include the relevant qualified engineering professionals, e.g. Registered Professional Engineer (R.P.E.) from relevant engineering disciplines, in the Authorisation list for waterworks applications from design stage to completion stage of the plumbing and fire services waterworks under the Waterworks supply rules and regulations, including the *WWO 542 : Application for Water Supply/Request for Work to be Carried out by the Water Authority* and the *WWO 46: Application for Constructing, Installing, Altering or Removing an Inside Service or Fire Service*.

4. In fact, it is noted that Water Supplies Department is implementing a pilot scheme as outlined in the *WSD Circular Letter No. 2/2016 – Inspection and Approval of Plumbing Works* dated 3 June 2016, with inclusion of the MHKIE / R.P.E. in Building Services Discipline to enhance the interim inspection on underground pipes and the final inspection of the waterworks. The HKIE supports the scheme and would therefore request the scheme to cover the qualified engineering professionals in relevant engineering disciplines in Hong Kong as appropriate. It is further suggested to consider if it would be suitable to incorporate the scheme in the Cap. 102 and Cap.102A as a statutory requirement.

5. The HKIE hopes that the inclusion of relevant qualified engineering professionals for quality control of waterworks throughout the design, construction and completion stages can address and relieve the public concern on the impact of sub-standard plumbing pipework on drinking water.