

Guidelines for Identification of Abandoned or Dangerous Signboards

Background

Buildings Department (BD) has been taking proactive and vigorous action to remove abandoned or dangerous signboards which pose danger to the safety of the public. For signboards left at the shop premises after closing down of business or its removal to other places or lacking proper maintenance resulting in a state of dilapidation, BD will issue Dangerous Structure Removal Notices to the owners of the signboards under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132), to eliminate any potential danger that these abandoned or dangerous signboards may pose to the public. If the owners of these signboards fail to comply with the Removal Notice, BD will arrange to carry out the removal works and recover the costs from the owners of the signboards. In emergency situation, BD will arrange to carry out the removal works immediately.

Characteristics of Abandoned Signboards

- (a) the signboard's display is removed or blank, i.e. it does not display any advertisement in words or in logo for a shop or a product; or
- (b) the signboard of a shop for which there is no such shop existing and located at any of the premises of the building to which the signboard is affixed to.

Examples of Abandoned Signboards

1. Signboard was abandoned upon removal of shop.



2. Name of shop was covered by paint or removed.



3. Only the metal supporting frame of the signboard left.



Characteristics of Dangerous Signboards

- (a) the framework of the signboard or its supporting structures, including supporting members, bracing members and suspension steel wires, are not fully intact, in a dilapidated or heavily rusty condition for which a member of the public would have reasonable safety concern; or
- (b) the fixing and attachment of the signboard to the parent building show signs of structural danger for which a member of the public would have reasonable structural concern, e.g., loose or heavily rusty fixing plates/anchor bolts, cracks on fixing areas of the parent building; or
- (c) the signboard, including the framework of the signboard and the display surface, are seriously damaged or in a dilapidated condition for which a member of the public would have reasonable safety concern, e.g., the display surface is torn, loosely hung or missing, exposing lighting fixtures inside the signboard.

Examples of Dangerous Signboards

1. Display surface of signboard seriously damaged.
2. Metal supporting frame seriously distorted.



3. Metal supporting frame seriously corroded and display surface tilted.

