

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)07

Question Serial No.

S108

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

with reference to DEVB(PL) 046

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please note that a reply to the original question on the ratios of different testing methods employed, the reasons for employing those methods and their effectiveness, are still outstanding.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Joint Office does not maintain statistics on the testing methods used in individual investigations and hence does not have information on the ratios of the different tests employed.

A combination of testing methods is usually employed in the investigation of a water seepage case in accordance with the individual circumstances. There may be many possible sources of water seepage. The investigation of all suspected seepage sources involves a method of elimination through a series of systematic non-destructive testing and analysis of findings to detect the real single source or multiple sources in some cases. Water seeps downwards or along the shortest possible path through a barrier (e.g. floor slab) due to gravitational force. To detect any seepage from a drainage pipe within a floor slab, for example, the investigator will pour coloured water into the sanitary fitment outlet and afterwards observe any water seepage underneath. Similar to the coloured water test for sanitary fitments, the coloured water ponding test is applied for floor or roof slabs. For suspected leakage from water supply pipes, the water meter flow check or reversible pressure test is applied. The infra red thermographic scanner can detect the variations of temperature, and hence is used to detect the presence of water on a surface.

Coloured water test and water ponding test are used in most cases. They are simple and effective tests for application in many situations and may attain a high success rate in identifying the source of seepage. However, no testing method or equipment would be able to detect the source if the seepage is very mild or intermittent. The effectiveness of any testing method will depend on the circumstances of the particular water seepage case.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHEUNG Hau-wai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 11 April 2008