

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**DEVB(PL)089**

Question Serial No.

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

2705

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding “the key performance measures in respect of buildings and building works”, all the targets under “New Buildings” for the plan in 2010 were set to achieve at 100%. Please explain:

- (i) why the targets of “processing building plans within 60 days for new submissions” and “within 30 days for re-submissions” were not enhanced to those within 45 days and 20 days respectively?
- (ii) why the targets of “processing within 28 days applications for consent to commence building works” and “processing within 14 days applications for occupation permits” were not enhanced to those within 21 days and 7 days respectively to bring the standards in line with the performance measures in neighbouring countries and regions?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The Buildings Department (BD) processes building plan submissions under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) through a centralised processing system which involves referral of plans to relevant Government departments for comments and advice on areas under their respective purview. Adequate time has to be allowed for both the BD and other departments to vet the submissions to ensure that they meet the latest design standards and safety requirements. The present statutory time limits of 60 days and 30 days for the processing of the new submissions and re-submissions respectively are considered reasonable, taking into account the procedures and steps involved.

Similarly, for the processing of applications for consent to commence building works and occupation permits, it involves site inspections, checking of relevant reports and documents and consolidation of comments/input from other Government departments. The present statutory time limits of 28 days and 14 days respectively are considered reasonable for processing such applications.

We have no plan to make any adjustment to the statutory time limits. Nevertheless, the BD will review and refine its various work procedures from time to time and engage the stakeholders with a view to enhancing the quality of the Department's service to the industry.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters     AU Choi-kai    

Post Title     Director of Buildings    

Date     19 March 2010