

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 1308)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (AU Choi-kai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Regarding the processing time for new buildings, the Department has adopted a new calculation method since 1 November 2013, i.e., the time taken by authorised persons and registered structural engineers to make amendments or furnish particulars will be taken into account in computing the processing time. What are the respective numbers of building plans, applications for consent to commence building works and applications for occupation permits received by the Department from 1 November 2013 up till now; and how many of these applications can be processed within the target processing time set by the Department? What are the reasons for not being able to process the applications within the target time?

Reply:

To facilitate applicants in obtaining approval, if an application can be approved subject to minor amendments or further particulars to be furnished, the Buildings Department allows the authorised person (AP) and the registered structural engineer (RSE) to make such amendments or furnish the required particulars instead of rejecting the application. For the purpose of computing the processing time, before 1 November 2013, these cases were taken to be approved within the target time frame, regardless of the time taken by the AP and RSE to make such necessary amendments or furnish such required particulars. From 1 November 2013 onwards, such time incurred on the part of the AP and RSE has been taken into account in computing the processing time.

Statistics on the processing of applications for approval of building plans, consent for the commencement of building works and occupant permits received between 1 November 2013 and 28 February 2014 are tabulated below:

	No. of applications received	No. of applications processed*	No. of applications processed within the target time frame
Building plan submission	5 639	4 013	3 758
Consent for the commencement of works	4 386	3 466	3 291
Occupant permit	120	89	89

* Applications that were being processed as at 28 February 2014 are not included.

While all disapproval cases were processed within the target time frame, some approval cases required additional processing time beyond the target time frame for allowing the AP and RSE to make minor amendments or furnish further particulars to facilitate approval of the application.