

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0845)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (HUI Siu-wai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What is the purpose of formulating a Code of Practice for Seismic-resistant Building Design Standards (the Code)? What is the estimated time for implementing the new statutory requirements? Will seismic resistance of existing buildings be required to be reviewed in the light of the new Code?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

The public consultation conducted in 2013 indicated a community consensus to introduce statutory seismic-resistant building design standards in Hong Kong so as to enhance building safety. To take forward this initiative, the Buildings Department commissioned a consultancy study in February 2015 to formulate a code of practice on seismic-resistant design standards for buildings in Hong Kong (CoP). The study is expected to complete in three years. The CoP will set out detailed technical guidelines for determining seismic actions on buildings and the corresponding design and construction of seismic-resistant buildings in Hong Kong.

After the formulation of the CoP, the Buildings Department will seek to introduce necessary amendments to the Buildings Ordinance and/or its subsidiary legislation in order to provide statutory backing to the CoP. In accordance with the community consensus reached during the 2013 public consultation, the CoP will have no retrospective effect on existing buildings.

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