

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)121**

**(Question Serial No. 0065)**

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

Question:

The Administration indicates that it will continue to oversee the review of regulations under the Buildings Ordinance with a view to modernising the relevant provisions and standards, including taking forward the exercises to update the Building (Construction) Regulations and the Building (Minor Works) Regulation and formulate a new Code of Practice for seismic-resistant building design. Under this connection, will the Administration inform this Council the approach and target for reviewing the aforementioned regulations? Will it make reference to overseas experience in reforming local Buildings Ordinance so as to enhance the living condition and minimum living space per person in Hong Kong? Will the Administration conduct consultation for the said review and how will the Administration ensure sufficient representation from trades and industries for such exercise?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) is reviewing the Building (Construction) Regulations under the Buildings Ordinance with a view to converting the existing prescriptive requirements into performance-based provisions to keep abreast of latest international building technological advancements and enhancing the standards in building construction. BD is also reviewing the Building (Minor Works) Regulation with a view to expanding the Minor Works Control System (MWCS) to facilitate members of the public to carry out small-scale building works through a simple, effective and lawful way.

Concurrently, BD is now formulating a new code of practice for seismic resistant design standards for buildings in Hong Kong (CoP) which seeks to set out detailed technical guidelines for determining seismic-resistant features on buildings and the corresponding design and construction guidelines to enhance building safety.

BD has consulted the industry from time to time through the Building Sub-Committee of the Land and Development Advisory Committee, the Authorised Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers Committee and Technical Committee on MWCS when drawing up the aforesaid legislative proposals and CoP. These committees comprise representatives of professional institutions and other stakeholder associations of the building industry and relevant government departments. The feedback received in respect of these proposals is generally supportive.

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