

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0138)

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:

With regard to “continuing the review of various building regulations, standards and codes of practice with a view to modernising building design and construction standards”, would the authorities inform this Committee:

1. whether there are specific indicators for performance evaluation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. whether there is any progress for this item in the past three years? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The Buildings Department (BD) reviews the various building regulations, standards and codes of practice from time to time with a view to keeping abreast of latest international building technological advancements and enhancing the standards of building construction. The reviews may involve commissioning of consultancy studies, stakeholders' consultation and seeking comments from technical committees set up for the review of various codes of practice. As the reviews differ in scope and complexity, it is difficult to set specific performance indicators and target completion timeframes on the reviews.
2. From 2016 to 2018, BD issued several new and revised codes of practice, covering adaptive re-use of and alteration and addition works to heritage buildings, barrier free access, precast concrete construction, dead and imposed loads, demolition of buildings, foundations, as well as the structural use of concrete, glass and steel.

On the review of extant regulations, BD has completed the reviews on the Building (Construction) Regulations (B(C)R) and the Building (Minor Works) Regulation (B(MW)R). To provide further facilitation to the industry and keep in pace with the latest technological advancements and societal needs, it is proposed to revamp the

B(C)R to change the current prescriptive provisions to performance-based ones as far as practicable, and to enhance standards on the design and construction of buildings, streets, building works and street works. It is also proposed to amend the B(MW)R to include more works items under the prevailing Minor Works Control System to facilitate the public to carry out such works lawfully. We consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Development on 26 February 2019, and aim to finalise the amendments to the extant regulations with a view to tabling them in the LegCo in the near future.

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