

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 3366)

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:

In “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20”, the Administration states 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. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council the manpower and resources allocated for such review and will the Administration announce and report to this Council concerning the result of the above review? If yes, of the timetable and details; if no, of the reasons. Also, concerning the new Code of Practice, does the Administration conduct a comprehensive review as well as consultation for this regard? If yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (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, bring greater convenience to members of the public and keep in pace with the latest technological advancements and societal needs, it is proposed to –

- (a) 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; and
- (b) 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.

As regards seismic-resistant design for buildings in Hong Kong, BD had previously conducted a public consultation exercise to gauge views of the general public and stakeholders of the building industry on the subject, and reported to the LegCo Panel on Development the outcome of the consultation. Taking into account the consultation feedback, BD is formulating a new code of practice (CoP) to set out the detailed technical guidelines, and will engage stakeholders as per its established consultation mechanism.

BD is responsible for the review of the various building regulations, standards and CoPs as part of its overall duties. BD could not provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure solely for these tasks.

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