

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)109**

**(Question Serial No. 0005)**

Head: (82) Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (YU Tak-cheung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21”, 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 the aforementioned update? What are the latest progress and the timetable for completion for the relevant update? Also, please update this Council the progress for formulating a new Code of Practice for seismic-resistant building design.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

We consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Development on 26 February 2019 on the technical amendments to the Building (Construction) Regulations (B(C)R) and the Building (Minor Works) Regulation (B(MW)R), and Members generally supported the amendments. We published the revamped B(C)R and the associated amendments in the Gazette on 10 January 2020, and the regulations will come into operation on 1 February 2021. The Buildings Department (BD) is finalising the amendments to the extant B(MW)R with a view to gazetting the amendments within the current LegCo session.

As regards seismic-resistant design for buildings in Hong Kong, BD has commissioned a consultancy study to formulate a new code of practice for seismic-resistant building design standards in Hong Kong (Code). BD is seeking preliminary views on the draft Code from stakeholders of the building industry in accordance with its established consultation mechanism with a view to preparing the final draft of the Code.

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

- End -