

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)123

(Question Serial No. 0089)

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 2021-2022, the Government states that it will “continue to prepare Stage 2 legislative amendments to the B(SSFPDW&L)R for transforming the existing prescriptive requirements to performance-based standards, as well as rationalising and updating the relevant statutory provisions”. Under this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) the scope, the target and the legislative timetable of this amendment;
- (b) whether the performance-based standards be applicable or would be applied in other legislation; if yes, of the details; if no. of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (a) The main objectives of Stage 2 legislative amendments to the Building (Standards of Sanitary Fittings, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations are to replace the prescriptive requirements by performance-based requirements to cater for advancement in building technology and introduce a higher standard for the design of drainage systems of new buildings. In order to achieve early implementation of some enhanced design standards of drainage system and to allow the industry sufficient time to familiarise with the enhancements, the Buildings Department (BD) is consulting the stakeholders of the building industry in accordance with its established consultation mechanism so as to implement some of the proposed enhanced design standards through a Practice Note for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers (PNAP). BD will draw on the experience of implementing the PNAP after it comes into effect in preparing the legislative amendments, with a target to submit the Stage 2 legislative amendments in the next legislative session.

- (b) BD reviews, from time to time, the Buildings Ordinance, its subsidiary legislations as well as codes of practice to ensure that they continue to meet modern-day standards and latest building technology. The Building (Construction) Regulation which came into operation on 1 February 2021 comprises performance-based provisions for facilitating innovation and advancement in building technology as well as providing flexibility in building design.

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