

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0097)

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

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-2023, the Government states that it will “continue to prepare Stage 2 legislative amendments to the Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations (Cap. 123I) for transforming the existing prescriptive requirements to performance-based standards, as well as rationalising and updating the relevant statutory provisions”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- a. the amount of resources and the staff establishment involved in executing this policy initiative; and
- b. the scope, the target, the legislative timetable and the latest progress of this amendment.

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The main objectives of Stage 2 legislative amendments to the Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations (Cap. 123I) 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 of the proposed enhanced design standards of the drainage system and to allow the industry sufficient time to familiarise with the enhancements, the Buildings Department (BD) issued a Practice Note for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers (PNAP) in April 2021. BD will draw on the experience of implementing the PNAP in preparing the legislative amendments, with a target to submit the Stage 2 legislative amendments in the next legislative session.

The review and updating of building laws, standards and codes of practice are part of BD's overall duties and no breakdown could be provided solely for this task.

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