

31 May 2011

To: All Authorized Persons
Registered Structural Engineers
Registered Geotechnical Engineers

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Building (Construction) (Amendment) Regulation 2011
and
Code of Practice for Dead and Imposed Loads 2011**

The Building (Construction) (Amendment) Regulation 2011 (“the Amendment Regulation”), which amends the requirements on imposed loads stipulated in Regulation 17 of the Building (Construction) Regulations, shall come into operation on 1 August 2011.

Main features of the Amendment Regulation include:

- (a) Floor uses are re-categorized into eight classes according to the nature of their uses to facilitate practitioners to ascertain the minimum imposed load requirements for different uses of buildings;
- (b) Where the floor of a building is used to support any equipment, machinery or display item that will result in a greater imposed load than the minimum imposed load specified in Table 1 of the Amendment Regulation, the load of any of those items has to be considered in determining the imposed load on the floor;
- (c) The minimum imposed loads for certain uses (e.g. domestic use, restaurants, car-parking areas, etc.) are reduced after taking into account the latest international building design standards and local occupation pattern;

- (d) The minimum imposed loads for some new uses (e.g. residential care homes for elderly persons, nursing homes, dance practice rooms, karaoke establishments, museums, etc.) are specified to cater for present-day activities;
- (e) The allowable reduction of total imposed loads for buildings are revised after taking into account the general increase in the number of storeys of buildings nowadays;
- (f) The horizontal imposed loads on protective barriers are revised to enable economical structural design of protective barriers; and
- (g) The horizontal impact forces on vehicle barriers are revised to facilitate practitioners in structural design of vehicle barriers.

Application

By virtue of section 39(2) of the Buildings Ordinance, the Amendment Regulation does not apply to building works which are being carried out or consent to the commencement of which has been given as at 31 July 2011. In general, building works may refer to foundation works of the proposed development.

As the Amendment Regulation will bring about positive environmental impact and enhance sustainability by facilitating more economical building design and construction of buildings, the Building Authority is prepared to grant modifications of the provisions of Regulation 17 of the Building (Construction) Regulations, upon application in the specified form to permit adoption of the Amendment Regulation in its entirety before 1 August 2011.

Code of Practice

Requirements for dead loads and imposed loads for buildings are laid down in Regulations 16 and 17 of the Building (Construction) Regulations. Pursuant to the Amendment Regulation, a Code of Practice for Dead and Imposed Loads 2011 (the "Code") providing guidance on compliance with these requirements has been issued by the Building Authority. The Code should be used in its entirety with the Amendment

Regulation.

The Code has taken into account the advancement in building technologies, development of international building codes and standards, changes in local occupation pattern and emergence of new uses of buildings.

Access to the Amendment Regulation and the Code

Links are provided in the Buildings Department's website <<http://www.bd.gov.hk>> under the "Notices" page of the "Publications and Press Release" section for viewing of the English and Chinese version of the Amendment Regulation, and under the "Codes of Practice and Design Manuals" page of the "Publications" section for viewing of the English version of the Code. The Code may be downloaded subject to terms and conditions stipulated in the website.

Yours sincerely,



(KOON Chi-ming)

Assistant Director/New Buildings 2
for Building Authority