

4 February 2009

**To : All Authorized Persons
Registered Structural Engineers
Registered Geotechnical Engineers
Registered General Building Contractors and
Registered Specialist Contractors**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Stainless Steel Manhole Covers

This circular letter aims to provide guidance on the use of stainless steel as an alternative material for manhole covers.

Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 56(7) requires every manhole to be fitted with a cast iron airtight cover of adequate strength and approved design. To provide design flexibility, the Building Authority will favourably consider application for modification of the said regulation for the adoption of stainless steel as manhole cover if the design of the stainless steel manhole cover complies with BS EN 124 or other equivalent standard.

Provided that compliance with the loading requirements have been demonstrated by loading test in accordance with the requirements stipulated in Section 8 of BS EN 124, submission of structural calculations for stainless steel manhole covers is not required. Stainless steel manhole covers with the same construction details as set out in the standard drawings for manhole covers published by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) are acceptable to the Building Authority provided you are satisfied that such design is structurally adequate to withstand the design load for the intended use. The above-mentioned standard drawings can be downloaded from the following DSD website link:

http://www/dsd.gov.hk/publications_publicity/other_publications/standard_drawings/index.htm

Yours faithfully,



(K M MO)

Assistant Director/New Buildings 1
for Building Authority