

14 February 2019

To : All Authorized Persons  
Registered Structural Engineers

Dear Sir/Madam,

### Submission of Vertical Greening Plans

For greening in buildings, a typical vertical greening (VG) system is composed of manually demountable modular units<sup>1</sup> fixed to a supporting frame mounted on the external wall of a building. The modular units are usually proprietary products of relatively small size and made of light weight material. This circular letter provides guidelines for submission of structural plans for VG.

2. VG to be fixed to any part of the exterior of a building should be shown in the general building plan submitted to Building Authority (BA) for approval. For VG with supporting frames more than 3 m above the adjoining ground, submission of structural plans is required. The structural plans should contain, inter alia, the layout of the supporting frame and the structural details including fixing of the modular units to the supporting frame.

3. Nevertheless, structural details of the modular units are not required if the following criteria are met:

- (a) each modular unit is of a size not exceeding 0.75 m in height and width;
- (b) projection of each modular unit from the plane of fixing points does not exceed 0.2 m;

/(c) ...

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<sup>1</sup> The modular unit can be made of galvanized mild steel, stainless steel, aluminium or plastic and comprises a cluster of trays or a single tray for planting.

- (c) the highest point of the modular units is not more than 15 m above the adjoining ground; and
- (d) the VG system is a proprietary system.

4. Where the structural details of the modular units are not required, the authorized person and registered structural engineer should ensure that the design, fabrication and installation of the modular units would achieve the required safety standard. In addition, the building owners should also be advised of the need for regular inspection and maintenance of the VG.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' followed by a cursive flourish.

( HO Hon-kit, Humphrey )  
Assistant Director/New Buildings 2  
for Building Authority