

### **Ventilation of Common Corridors and Lift Lobbies in Buildings**

The outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Hong Kong has aroused public concern for a clean and healthy living environment. We believe good ventilation in buildings would contribute to a clean and health environment. Other than the prescribed requirements for natural ventilation under the building regulations in respect of rooms used for habitation or for the purposes of office or as kitchens, we are of the view that ventilation to common corridor and lift lobbies, including entrance lobbies should be promoted to enhance environmental hygiene.

2. Authorized persons (APs) are therefore recommended to consider the provision of ventilation to common corridors and lift lobbies, including entrance lobbies at the building design stage. Where design constraints rendered the provision of natural ventilation not feasible, mechanical ventilation should be provided to help achieve a better indoor environment.

3. APs may wish to make reference to the following good practices when designing mechanical ventilation in the captioned areas:

- a) The ventilation system should be capable of providing sufficient fresh air taking into account the anticipated population;
- b) Intake and exhaust points should be properly designed to prevent contamination of fresh air supply and avoid short-circuiting;
- c) The ventilation system and its associated ductworks, where provided, should be conveniently accessible for maintenance;

4. The Buildings Department is examining the need for improvement in building design in the context of environmental hygiene. The recommendations in this practice note will be kept under review and will be refined as and when appropriate.

( Marco M H WU )  
Building Authority

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