



To enhance communication with property management agents, the Buildings Department (BD) publishes and sends this quarterly newsletter to all property management companies and hopefully through them, this newsletter will reach the hands of building owners.

Little Forum

Is there any mandatory scheme to inspect buildings in Singapore?

In the wake of the tragic collapse of the 6-storey Hotel New World in 1986, Singapore's Building and Construction Authority (BCA) introduced the Periodic Structural Inspection (PSI) regime in 1989 requiring building owners to appoint structural engineers, who must be a Professional Engineer (PE) registered with the PE Board, to inspect their buildings. Non-residential buildings and residential buildings are to be inspected at 5-yearly and 10-yearly intervals respectively. The purpose is to ensure that structural defects are detected and rectified early so that buildings can remain structurally sound for occupation.

The BD invited Er LIM Beng Kwee, Director of Special Functions Group (BCA), to share the experience of implementing the PSI regime in Singapore with local building professionals at the Building Safety Symposium on 24 March. Er Lim's sharing covered the legislation and procedures of the PSI, common structural building defects and the challenges faced when implementing the scheme. He concluded that while not without challenging situations, the PSI regime had in general been implemented smoothly and had been effective in ensuring the structural safety of buildings in Singapore.



Mobile Version of Thematic Website



The mobile version of the BD's Thematic Website "Care for Your Buildings" has been launched on 18 March. Check out the mobile website to stay updated on the BD's latest initiatives at your fingertips.



Introductory Guide on Greening in Buildings

Greening plays an important role in building an environmentally friendly built environment. Greening in buildings can help improve the quality of our built environment. As such, the BD has recently published the "Introductory Guide on Greening in Buildings" to provide guidelines on safe provision of greening in buildings. The Introductory Guide is now available for download at the BD website.



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Introductory Guide
on
Greening in Buildings



A New Front Page for the BD Website

On 18 March, the BD revamped the front page for its website optimised for viewing in desktops, tablets and smartphones. Check out bd.gov.hk to enjoy the brand new surfing experience and learn more about the hot topics on building safety and maintenance.





Practitioners Corner

New Arrangements for Acknowledging the Minor Works Submissions

In general, the BD will issue an acknowledgement letter within four working days upon receipt of a minor works submission. If the submissions are delivered by hand, the BD endeavours to issue the acknowledgement letter on the same day over the counter. However, it is noted that the submission delivery peaks during the last two hours before closing. To reduce the waiting time, a new arrangement for minor works submissions has been implemented. For a batch of more than five submissions delivered after 4:00 p.m., the BD will issue acknowledgement letters on the next working day. If you wish to receive a faster services, please deliver minor works submissions in the morning session of the opening hours.



Minor Works Contractor



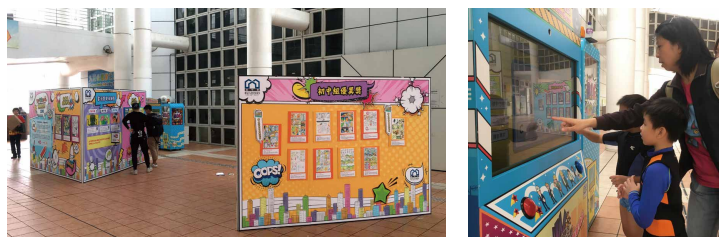
Building Safety Week 2017 Successfully Held

Building Safety Week (BSW) is an annual flagship publicity event of the BD. A wide range of publicity and activities including Student Drama Competition, Mini-Movie Prize Presentation Ceremony, Comic Drawing Competition Exhibitions, TV programmes, talks and seminars had been held throughout the BSW 2017 from 18 to 24 March. Here are some photo highlights:



Comic Drawing Competition Winning Entries Exhibition

The winning entries of the Comic Drawing Competition 2016 were showcased at Kowloon Park throughout the BSW 2017. Together with our ever popular 'B.I.G' Kiosk, the exhibition had been well received by the visitors in the park. If your kids would like to join the Competition 2017, stay tuned to the BD website and Facebook page. Further details will be announced in April.



Building Safety Advanced Certificate Course (BSACC)

The 1st Building Safety Advanced Certificate Course (BSACC) comprising 2 half-day lectures targeted at building owners was held in February. The attendance rate was unprecedentedly high, with all the 120 seats occupied. In view of the encouraging feedback, the BD is planning to organise more BSACC in the coming future. For updates on the upcoming courses, stay tuned to the BD website!



Joint Lectures with Tertiary Institutes

"Environment, Globalisation & Institutions" is one of the common core courses for the undergraduates of the University of Hong Kong (HKU). The BD was invited to deliver a talk on Quality & Sustainable Built Environment on 1 March. Other than the undergraduates, some BD colleagues attended the talk as well. Open lectures for Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) students and the general public, including property management agents, were also held during the BSW 2017. The BD will gauge the effectiveness of the joint lectures through the feedback of participants. If you have any suggestions on the joint lectures, please mail us at pepu@bd.gov.hk.



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[BDBExpress](https://www.facebook.com/BDBExpress)



YouTube channel

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BD Main Website

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"Care For Your Building"

Thematic Website

www.careyourbuilding.bd.gov.hk

