

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee  
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups**

***Safe provision of greening in hotel buildings***

**Background**

Greening in buildings can improve the quality of our built environment. The Buildings Department (BD) is responsible for regulating building safety, which covers building safety issues arising from the provision of greening in buildings.

**Trade's Concern**

2. At the Business Liaison Group (BLG) meeting for hotels, the trade expressed that there is quite a lot of greening in hotel buildings and they would like to have a better understanding on the safe provision of greening and the relevant regulatory requirements to facilitate their compliance.

**Administration's Response**

3. In response, BD informed the trade at hotel BLG meeting that BD had published the "Introductory Guide on Greening in Buildings" (Guide) in February 2017 which provides an easy reference for the provision of greening in buildings. The Guide highlights the potential impact of greening on building safety and areas of concern, particularly for situations that have substantial impact on existing building structures such as greening on long-span roof, and the need to seek professional advice as necessary for ensuring building safety.

4. BD briefed the trade on the Guide and its relevance to the hotel trade by making reference to the greening commonly provided in hotel buildings. BD clarified that if no new building works were involved for the provision of greening, whether in new or existing hotel buildings, plan submission to BD would not be necessary. BD reminded the trade that if there was existing greening for which BD's prior approval had not been sought, trade operators should consult qualified professionals to assess its implications

on aspects such as structural, drainage and fire safety of the building, and take rectification actions as appropriate, such as removing unauthorized building works. BD advised that since the Guide served as a reference on provision of greening only, the trade should consult qualified professionals on the feasibility of proposed greening in hotel buildings and whether prior approval by BD was required to ensure building safety. The Guide is available for download at BD's website ([http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/pamphlet/IGG\\_e.pdf](http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/pamphlet/IGG_e.pdf)) .

### **Way Forward**

5. Members are invited to note the content of the paper and offer comment, if any.

**Buildings Department**

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