

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

Measures to facilitate applications for water supply by trades

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the measures introduced to facilitate trades to proceed with applications for water supply.

Background

2. Under Waterworks Ordinance, approval from the Water Authority (WA) is required in order to construct, install, alter or remove a plumbing installation. The plumbing installation that receives water supply from Waterworks has to comply with the waterworks requirements under the provision of the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap 102), the Waterworks Regulations (Cap 102A) and other prescribed technical requirements. The fundamental principles considered by the WA in vetting the plumbing proposals include ensuring water safety, preventing contamination, preventing misuse, preventing waste and meter arrangement.

Trades Concerns

3. Trades requiring water supply for operation would like to have greater facilitation in the processing of plumbing proposals and inspection of plumbing works so as to enable early availability of the water supply and hence commencement of their business operation.

Administration's Response

4. In response, WSD has implemented a series of measures to facilitate the application for water supply including –

- (a) Provided a submission checklist for use by applicants to avoid delay in application processing due to incomplete information and/or missing supporting documents;

- (b) Enhanced WSD's website to provide a function for applicants to search and select the pipes and fittings acceptable by the Water Authority (WA) and then generate the required form to reduce errors and anomalies in submission;
- (c) Waived the requirement to submit pipe alignment plans for approval of plumbing proposals;
- (d) Introduced the "Voluntary Submission of Inspection Checklists" scheme under which the licensed plumbers could carry out interim inspection of underground pipes and final inspection of completed plumbing works to speed up the inspection process;
- (e) Promulgated "Technical Requirements of Plumbing Works in Buildings" and "Guide to Applications for Water Supply" in August 2018, which mainly consolidate and update the technical and submission requirements in existing documents to facilitate better understanding of the standard of the WA by the applicants, authorized persons & licensed plumbers; and
- (f) Provided on WSD's website hotlines for enquiry on the status of new application for water supplies and provided the information of case officers. Assistance will be provided to customers when necessary.

5. All business operators who need to proceed with plumbing works to obtain water supply will benefit from the above initiatives.

Way Forward

6. Members are invited to note the content of the paper and offer comments, if any.

Water Supplies Department
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