

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)045**

**Question Serial No.**

**1190**

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Regarding the enforcement of related fire safety improvement directions of specified commercial buildings and composite buildings, the estimated indicator in 2005 turns out to be lower than the actual workload generated in 2003-04. Can the Administration state the reasons? Will the Administration consider upgrading the estimated indicator so as to achieve higher efficiency?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

Since the discharge of fire safety improvement directions are in respect of specified commercial buildings and discharge of fire safety directions are in respect of prescribed commercial premises, "composite buildings" mentioned in the question is taken to refer to "prescribed commercial premises".

The following indicators relate to the enforcement of fire safety directions and fire safety improvement directions :

Work Item	2003 (Actual)	2004 (Actual)	2005 (Estimate)
Fire safety directions discharged in respect of prescribed commercial premises	288	113	100
Fire safety improvement directions discharged in respect of specified commercial buildings	1 351	1 598	1 500

The implementation of the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance in respect of Prescribed Commercial Premises, and the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) (Amendment) Ordinance in respect of Specified Commercial Buildings involves the retro-fitting of fire safety provisions in these existing buildings and premises. The retro-fitting works required in the directions mentioned above include improving the fire escape, exit doors and fire fighting equipment. There are spatial and structural constraints for the required retro-fitting works in some of the existing old buildings. A lot of time and efforts are involved in explaining to the owners in the multi-storey buildings concerned the required improvement works and in arranging for meetings with owners to persuade them to carry out the works.

In 2003 and 2004, improvement works have already been completed in many of the buildings which presented less physical constraints for the works, and in buildings where building owners were able to organise themselves in proceeding with the works. In 2005, we would need to spend more effort and time to deal with those buildings which present more spatial and structural constraints for the required retro-fitting works and to help owners concerned who have difficulties in organizing themselves to carry out the works. In view of the implementation difficulties mentioned above, it is not practicable to upgrade the two estimated indicators in question in 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	6 April 2005

[TOP](#)