

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)045

Question Serial No.

1035

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 :

- (a) The number of prescribed commercial premises inspected for improvement of fire safety is targeted at 150 for each year. However, from 2004 to 2006, the actual and planned numbers inspected are substantively higher than the targets. Has the Administration considered upgrading the performance target so as to be in line with the numbers that can actually be handled by the Department?
- (b) The number of specified commercial buildings inspected for improvement of fire safety is targeted at 140 for each year. However, from 2004 to 2005, the actual numbers inspected are comparatively higher than the targets. Has the Administration considered upgrading the performance target so as to be in line with the numbers that can actually be handled by the Department?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The objective of the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance is to improve the fire safety provisions in existing prescribed commercial premises (PCP) and specified commercial buildings (SCB) to which the Ordinance applies. This involves the retro-fitting of fire safety provisions in these old commercial premises and buildings. In the implementation of the Ordinance, the Buildings Department (BD), jointly with the Fire Services Department, would firstly inspect the target PCP/SCB to determine the appropriate improvement works before issuing the fire safety or fire safety improvement directions to the owners.

In addition, to ensure improvement in fire safety provisions for these PCPs/SCBs, we have to follow up with the owners to pursue compliance with the directions, including explaining the required improvement works to them and helping them to organise themselves to carry out the works. The targets of inspecting 150 PCP and 140 SCB per year were set with regard to the staff resources available and the various tasks that BD has to carry out in the implementation of the Ordinance. We consider that these targets should be maintained. We appreciate the importance of this area of work and will strive to inspect 190 PCPs in 2006.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

10 March 2006

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