

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)056

Question Serial No.

2215

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 : The initiatives that will be taken forward in 2006-07 include “introducing the first package of legislative amendments to implement a performance-based regulatory system to facilitate modern and innovative building design”. Please provide the details of this area of work and what are the implications on the estimates of expenditure and manpower?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The performance-based regulatory system being developed aims to transform many of the prescriptive standards set out in the existing regulations under the Buildings Ordinance to performance requirements. Under such a system the regulations will specify the required outcome or performance to be achieved rather than prescribing the process, means or methods by which the specified outcome or performance can be achieved. This will provide greater flexibility for building designers to propose alternative and innovative designs to comply with the safety and health performance requirements instead of requiring them to strictly follow the present set of prescriptive standards.

For the purpose of development of the system, we have commissioned consultants to carry out studies on various aspects of planning, design and construction requirements of buildings and building works with a view to modernising the regulations and transforming the prescriptive standards to performance requirements where feasible. The consultancy studies cover the review of the existing prescriptive standards in the regulations under the Buildings Ordinance and the performance-based approach as adopted in other countries, as well as the drawing up of recommendations on amendments to the existing regulations. The subjects of these studies include lighting and ventilation, sanitary and drainage system, fire safety and construction of buildings and building works. We will consult the building industry in the course of developing the system and intend to introduce the relevant amendments to the regulations to the LegCo in phases from 2006 onwards.

The estimates of expenditure for payment to the consultants for carrying out the consultancy studies in 2006-07 are as follows:

	Consultancy Study	Approved Commitment	Accumulated Expenditure to 31.3.2005	Revised expenditure for 2005-06	Estimated expenditure for 2006-07	Balance
		\$'000	\$'000	\$000	\$000	\$000
1	To review the Code of Practice for fire safety in buildings and renovation works	9,900	4,340	3,165	950	1445
2	To review Building Regulations on drainage of buildings	4,000	2,507	546	74	873
3	To draft a Limit-State Code for Structural Use of Steel in Hong Kong	3,200	2,240	480	480	-

The staff resources required for developing the performance-based systems are absorbed by existing staff in the Department.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006

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