

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)064

Question Serial No.

1464

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 : For the introduction of an integrated site supervision system for building works and street works to replace the previous site safety supervision system, please advise us on the implementation of the new system and the differences between the two systems.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

Before 31 December 2005, there were three types of supervision requirements under the Buildings Ordinance:

- (a) Site Safety Supervision – supervision to ensure that site works were carried out in a safe manner through specified site safety management arrangements. This was required for all types of building works and street works;
- (b) Quality Supervision – supervision to ensure that the quality of foundation, soil nailing and ground investigation field works were up to standards; and
- (c) Qualified Supervision for Geotechnical Works – supervision to ensure that the geotechnical design assumptions and requirements were followed in the carrying out of building works and street works with geotechnical contents.

Each of the above types of supervision requirements entailed a different system of supervision in terms of the frequency of inspections and the competence and number of site supervisors required under the system. Depending on the particular type of building works or street works to be carried out, one, two or three types of supervision requirements might be required at the same site, and different sets of supervision proposals had to be prepared and submitted to the Building Authority before consent to commence the building works or street works was given.

The new integrated site supervision system integrates the above three types of supervision requirements under one system and rationalises the duties, grades and inspection frequencies of the site supervisors. The objective is mainly to streamline the procedures and avoid duplication of the administrative efforts involved. Examples of streamlining measures include requiring submission of only one supervision plan covering the different types of supervision instead of different plans for different types of supervision and reducing the number of site supervisors required by merging supervisory personnel.

The integrated site supervision system is specified in the revised Technical Memorandum for Supervision Plans issued under section 39A of the Buildings Ordinance, which has been approved by the Legislative Council and implemented since 31 December 2005.

To facilitate the implementation of the new system, the department organized a number of seminars between December 2005 and February 2006 to explain and illustrate to the building industry the details of the new system and the related administrative procedures. The new system has been widely accepted by the industry.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>CHEUNG Hau-wai</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Buildings</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

[TOP](#)