

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)072

Question Serial No.

1472

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 : Under “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07”, a performance-based regulatory system will be implemented to facilitate modern and innovative building design. Please provide details of this system and the differences as compared with the existing regulatory system.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

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. A performance-based regulatory system is a system which specifies 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. Such a system 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 example, the minimum gradient of a drain is currently prescribed in the relevant regulations in order to achieve self-cleansing effect. In adopting a performance-based approach, the designer can demonstrate by calculation that the flow rate of the proposed gradient of the drain can achieve self-cleansing effect, instead of having to strictly follow the prescriptive minimum gradient. Hence, building designers may choose suitable design, planning and construction methods for buildings or building works as long as the buildings or building works so designed, planned and constructed meet the performance requirements specified in the regulations.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006

[TOP](#)