

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Food Business and Related Services Task Force**

***Mandatory Use of Designated Products
Registered Under Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme***

Purpose

This paper aims to introduce the proposed implementation of mandatory use of designated products registered under Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS), and seeks members' views on the proposal.

Background

2. In 2008, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region promulgated a Total Water Management (TWM) Strategy. Promotion of the use of water saving devices is one of the key initiatives under TWM and the Water Supplies Department (WSD) has developed a voluntary WELS covering different types of plumbing fixtures and water-consuming appliances.

3. In view of the voluntary nature of WELS, the participation rate and thus the penetration rate have been low despite various promotional efforts. To step up the gear in water conservation, the use of the water efficient products need to be mandated.

Implementation details of mandatory use of WELS designated products

4. It is proposed to mandate the use of designated products (showers for bathing, water taps and urinal flushing valves) of prescribed water efficiency grading registered under WELS in:

- (i) all new domestic buildings;
- (ii) the existing domestic buildings under major renovation that require the submission of form WWO46 (Application for Constructing, Installing, Altering or Removing an Inside Service or Fire Service) and involve the use of such designated products;
- (iii) toilets in all new non-domestic buildings; and
- (iv) toilets in the existing non-domestic buildings under major renovation that require the submission of form WWO46 and involve the use of such designated products.

5. For the context of mandating the use of designated WELS products, it is proposed that details of the abovementioned designated products are to be included in Annex to form WWO46 for the approval of the Water Authority (WA).

6. The WSD will check the designated products included in Annex to form WWO46 against the corresponding WELS registers¹ and the directory of pipes and fittings including any materials with valid GA given by the WA², whenever applicable.

7. The WA will only approve the use of the designated products if they have been included in the WELS registers and met the following prescribed water efficiency requirements:

<i>Designated products</i>	<i>Prescribed water efficiency requirements</i>
Showers for bathing	Grade 1 or Grade 2
Water taps (for use in kitchens)	Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3
Water taps (for use in toilets)	Grade 1 or Grade 2
Urinal flushing valves	Grade 1 or Grade 2

¹ Updated registers of WELS products have been uploaded to:

www.wsd.gov.hk/en/plumbing_and_engineering/wels/registers_of_all_wels_products/index.html

² Updated directory of pipes and fittings including any materials with valid GA given by the WA could be accessed at:

www.wsd.gov.hk/en/plumbing_and_engineering/fittings_to_be_installed_or_use/pipes_and_fittings_water_heaters_and_materials/index.html

Exemption

8. Buildings with contracts concerning the supply of those designated products signed before 1 January 2017 (tentative date of soft launch) may be eligible for exemption from the mandatory use of designated products registered under WELS. To apply for exemption, the applicant shall submit documentary proof of the existence of such contract and demonstrate that the specifications stipulated under the said contract for the use of those designated products could not fulfill the prescribed water efficiency requirements together with form WWO46 for verification.

9. Other applications for exemption on operational circumstances, such as the installation of a showerhead in the ceiling is required for operational reason, will also be considered on a case-by-case basis. To apply for the above exemption, the applicant shall provide justification detailing the reasons why the mandatory use of designated WELS products cannot be complied with together with form WWO 46.

Proposed implementation timeline

10. The soft launch of the proposal has been scheduled to late 2016 tentatively with a proposed grace period of 12 months from the soft launch.

11. The soft launch will be announced through official press release, whereas the trade, the Licensed Plumbers (LP) and the Authorised Persons (AP) will be notified of the implementation of the proposal via the WSD Circular Letter.

Way Forward

12. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and offer comments, if any.

**Water Supplies Department
October 2016**