

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups**

Building (Minor Works) (Amendment) Regulation 2020

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the main features of the Building (Minor Works) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (“the Amendment Regulation”) which came into operation on 1 September 2020.

Background

2. Minor Works Control System (“MWCS”) provides an alternative for building owners and occupants to carry out small-scale building works in a lawful, simple, safe and convenient way. With the MWCS, building owners and occupants may carry out minor works (“MW”) under simplified requirements without the need to obtain prior approval of plans and consent to the commencement of such works from the Building’s Department (“BD”). MW are classified into Class I, Class II and Class III according to their nature, scale and complexity and the risk to safety they posed.

The Amendment Regulation

3. In summary, the legislative amendment exercise involved the addition of 70 MW items offset by the repealing of 9 MW items, as a result of which the list of MW items has increased from 126 to 187. These items mainly include:

- (a) installation of greening features which promote a green and quality built environment such as planters, ponds, fountains, trellises and metal frames for growing of plants;

- (b) various amenity features which improve the standard and quality of a building such as retractable awnings, supporting structures and metal casings for building services installations and wind guards;
 - (c) repair or replacement of curtain walls and installation of features facilitating building maintenance such as small-sized reinforced polyester water tanks and cat ladders for maintenance purposes;
 - (d) installation of supporting frames for suspending air-conditioning plants or mechanical ventilation plants or ventilating ducts, as a result of which business operators (in particular those from the food business trade) would be able to apply for licences from the relevant authorities in a more timely manner; and
 - (e) extending the scope of signboard-related minor works to facilitate business operations in that for installation, alteration, replacement or removal of the display surface of signboards of any size, a designated exempted works item (where the materials involved are fabric sheeting or plastic only) and a Class II minor works item (where the materials involved do not consist of stone) is newly added.
4. The Amendment Regulation also provides for transitional arrangements to enable registered minor works contractors (RMWC) to continue the MW that have commenced before the commencement of the Amendment Regulation to avoid undue disruption. Suitable transitional arrangements are also put in place to avoid bringing inconvenience to existing RMWCs.

Publicity

5. The BD has launched a series of public education and publicity programmes for practitioners, property management agencies and the public on the relevant amendments. The BD has also updated the mobile application (available for download from [App Store](#)/[Google Play](#)) and published a series of [pamphlets](#) to enable the industry and the public to better understand the relevant requirements. Amendments to the [Technical Guidelines on Minor Works Control System](#) were published at BD's website on 24 March 2021 for the industry's use.

Way Forward

6. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

Buildings Department
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