

**District Council Information Paper**

**Brief on Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme**

**PURPOSE**

This paper serves to brief Members the Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme and solicit all Members' assistance in encouraging participation of eligible buildings in respective constituency areas.

**WATER SAFETY PLAN SUBSIDY SCHEME**

2. The drinking water supplied by our department complies with the Hong Kong Drinking Water Standards, but the quality of drinking water could be affected by the internal plumbing systems of buildings. Property owners and management agents of buildings should properly manage and maintain the buildings' internal plumbing systems. Since 2017, our department has been promoting the implementation of Water Safety Plan for Buildings (WSPB) in accordance with the recommendation of the World Health Organization. By devising templates and guidelines, our department assists property owners and management agents of buildings to formulate and implement their respective WSPB at their premises, so as to enhance the management and maintenance of the buildings' internal plumbing systems to ensure the drinking water safety in buildings.

3. In order to further safeguard drinking water safety, the Chief Executive announced in the 2019 Policy Address the Government's plan to launch Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme (WSPSS) to encourage property owners and management agents to implement WSPB at their premises. A total of \$440 million was allocated to the WSPSS for five years. It is envisaged to benefit about 5 000 eligible buildings. WSPSS will be open for application from 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**EIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

4. Application for WSPSS is on a per building basis. WSPSS would provide subsidy to property owners of eligible building meeting the following criteria<sup>1,2</sup> to

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<sup>1</sup> WSPSS does not cover those buildings with three storeys or less. As the internal plumbing systems of these buildings are relatively simple and the portions of communal parts are insignificant, the water safety risk of their internal plumbing systems is relatively low. The drinking water safety of these buildings could be enhanced by making reference to the relevant measures at WSD's webpage <https://www.wsd.gov.hk/filemanager/en/share/pdf/ws-tips-e.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Those eligible buildings implementing WSPB that already have made their applications for the "Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings – Fresh Water (Management System)" (QMS) on or after 16th October 2019, can also join WSPSS.

implement WSPB at their premises.

- (a) It should be private residential or composite (commercial and residential) building (including building held by Civil Servants' Co-operative Building Societies); and
- (b) The average annual rateable value of all the domestic units in the building should not exceed the ceiling as given below<sup>3</sup>:

Urban areas (including Sha Tin, Kwai Tsing  
and Tsuen Wan districts) : \$162,000

The New Territories (excluding Sha Tin,  
Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan districts) : \$124,000

5. Applicant must be owners' corporation (OC), owners' committee or Civil Servants' Co-operative Building Society (CBS) of the building. Those buildings without OCs, owners' committees or CBSs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### SCOPE COVERED

6. WSPSS will subsidise the following items:

- (a) formulation of WSPB including water safety risk assessment on the internal plumbing system of the building by qualified person (QP)<sup>4</sup>;
- (b) during the first and second cycles<sup>5</sup> of the implementation of WSPB, regular maintenance (including cleansing of the water tanks) for the internal plumbing system and specific checkings by QP<sup>6</sup> as required in WSPB; and
- (c) audits of the implementation of WSPB and reviews of WSPB as required in WSPB during the first and second cycles of implementation, if independent party is engaged for the tasks.

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<sup>3</sup> The ceilings are calculated based on the average annual rateable value of all the domestic units of a building as of 2017/18. Buildings completed after 2017/18 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>4</sup> The QPs must have received WSPB trainings. A list of such trained QPs is available on WSD's webpage: [https://www.wsd.gov.hk/filemanager/en/content\\_1734/list-of-qualified-person-trained-in-wsp.pdf](https://www.wsd.gov.hk/filemanager/en/content_1734/list-of-qualified-person-trained-in-wsp.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> One cycle of implementation of WSPB typically covers a 2-year period. The tasks as required in WSPB in each cycle include implementing control measures for water safety risks, specific checkings, regular maintenance of the internal plumbing system, audits of implementation of WSPB and reviews of WSPB.

<sup>6</sup> WSPB requires annual specific checking by QP, on aspects including whether there is adequate water pressure in the internal plumbing system of building, whether the plumbing installation functions normally, etc.

7. If rectification works and measures for controlling the risks as recommended in the water safety risk assessment above, we will assess and grant the additional subsidy on a case by case basis after an independent cost estimation.

#### APPLICATION METHOD

8. Application form and relevant leaflet can be downloaded from the our dedicated webpage ([www.wsd.gov.hk/wspss](http://www.wsd.gov.hk/wspss)) or obtained from WSD's Customer Enquiry Centres, respective Home Affairs Enquiry Centres, as well as the Urban Renewal Authority's Urban Renewal Resource Centre at Fuk Tsun Street, Tai Kok Tsui and Building Rehabilitation Division at Cheung Sha Wan Office.

9. The application can be submitted through the following channels:

(a) Online:

Webpage: <https://www.wsd.gov.hk/wspss>

(b) By post to the following address:

47th Floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

(c) In person to any WSD's Customer Enquiry Centres

10. For details of WSPSS, the public may visit our dedicated webpage, or call us (2824 5000, press 05 after language selection) for enquiry.

**Water Supplies Department**

**June 2020**