

**Second Meeting of  
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 6 : Report on the Consultancy Study on  
Review of Application and Inspection  
of Plumbing Installations in New Buildings***

**Purpose**

This paper provides a brief background on the consultancy study on review of application and inspection of plumbing installations in new buildings, and reports on the purpose and scope, progress and work plan of the study.

**Background**

2. In March 2003, the then Business and Services Promotion Unit of the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau, in collaboration with the Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board, commissioned a consultancy study on the licensing and other regulatory requirements of the construction industry. One of the recommendations of the 2003 study was to explore how the Water Supplies Department (WSD) could improve its service delivery, i.e. to speed up its approval process for plumbing proposals and completed installations in new buildings. With the support of the WSD and the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit has commissioned this further study for the purpose of service improvement to the construction industry.

**Purpose and Scope of the Study**

3. The objective of this consultancy study is to improve the quality of plumbing proposal submissions; to speed up the approval process; and explore means to simplify and improve the regulatory system with a view to creating and maintaining an open and business-friendly environment for the plumbing trade to operate in.

4. Major tasks of the study are to –

- (a) make recommendations on streamlining submission and approval processes to enhance operational efficiency and customer service;

- (b) review the control of plumbing installations including assessing the feasibility of introducing private certification, e.g. third party certification and self-certification scheme, for vetting of plumbing proposals and inspection of plumbing installations;
- (c) examine the need and investigating options, where appropriate, for the registration of plumbing contractors;
- (d) research on overseas practices in the plumbing trade on items (a) to (c) above; and
- (e) examine the implications on resources, regulatory costs, compliant costs, business interests, public interests and legal aspect of the recommendations.

### **Progress**

5. The Study Consultants have completed the review of current procedures and conducted first-round consultation with stakeholders and research on overseas practices. The Study Consultants will carry on with their work in formulating the recommendations.

### **Work Plan**

6. According to the current work plan, the Draft Final Report of the study will be circulated to relevant stakeholders for comments in August 2006. Their feedback will be considered in refining the recommendations of the study and preparing the Final Report. It is expected to report the study recommendations and their implementation progress at the next meeting.

### **Presentation**

7. The Study Consultants will present to Members the findings and progress of the study during the meeting and answer questions about the study.

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit,  
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