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Highways Department Technical Circular No. 14/2009

Guidelines in Handling Applications from
Utility Companies for Installations
inside Government Road Tunnels

Introduction

This circular lays down the departmental guidelines for processing applications from utility companies to install their facilities in Government Road Tunnels. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a consistent approach in handling such applications. However, modifications to these guidelines may be necessary to suit particular circumstances of each case.

2. It supersedes HyDTC No. 7/99 which is hereby cancelled.

Approving Mechanism

3. Utility Companies should submit their applications to Transport Department (TD) to install their facilities in Aberdeen Tunnel, Cross-Harbour Tunnel, Kai Tak Tunnel, Lion Rock Tunnel, Shing Mun Tunnel or Tseung Kwan O Tunnel under Section 18 of the Road Tunnels (Government) Ordinance CAP 368, and applications to Lands Department (Lands D) to install their facilities in Cheung Tsing Tunnel under Section 24 of the Tsing Ma Control Area Ordinance CAP 498 or Eagle's Nest Tunnel, Nam Wan Tunnel, Sha Tin Heights Tunnel or Tai Wai Tunnel under Section 20 of the Tsing Sha Control Area Ordinance CAP 594. TD / Lands D will request Highways Department (HyD), among other Government departments, for comments. If the proposal is agreed in principle by concerned Government departments, TD / Lands D will issue an approval in principle to the applicant. Lands D will

then issue a licence to the company incorporating the conditions as recommended by all concerned departments.

Maintenance Role of Highways Department

4. Currently Government road tunnels are operated under Management, Operation and Maintenance (MOM) contracts administered by TD. Under these MOM contracts, different scopes of maintenance responsibilities are assigned to HyD. In general, HyD responsibilities include the maintenance of the road pavement, road drainage system, lining, road furniture etc. within the tube and other areas within the tunnel boundaries. The Director of Highways has assigned these maintenance responsibilities as follows:

Aberdeen Tunnel	Urban Region (Hong Kong)
Cross-Harbour Tunnel	Urban Region (Kowloon)
Kai Tak Tunnel	Urban Region (Kowloon)
Lion Rock Tunnel	Urban Region (Kowloon) & NT Region
Shing Mun Tunnel	NT Region
Tseung Kwan O Tunnel	Urban Region (Kowloon) & NT Region
Cheung Tsing Tunnel	Bridges and Structures Division
Eagle's Nest Tunnel	Bridges and Structures Division
Nam Wan Tunnel	Bridges and Structures Division
Sha Tin Heights Tunnel	Bridges and Structures Division
Tai Wai Tunnel	Bridges and Structures Division

Guidelines in Handling Applications

5. Applications from utility companies will normally be referred to HyD by TD / Lands D. The officer of the Region/Division in charge of the tunnel concerned should check the scope and area of their maintenance responsibilities to see if the installation applied for falls under their jurisdiction.

6. The officer should consider whether the installation applied for would adversely affect the structural integrity, or the ease and cost of maintenance, of any of the elements such as road drainage system under his scope of maintenance. If in doubt, the

applicant shall be advised to employ independent designers to provide documentary evidence that any of the elements of the tunnel would not be affected adversely.

7. If the installation applied would adversely affect Government facilities, the officer should raise objection to the application, and discuss with TD / Lands D or the applicant to formulate an alternative to minimize, if not completely avoid, these adverse impacts. If no acceptable alternative can be found, the officer should advise TD / Lands D to reject the application.

8. If the proposed installation is acceptable in principle, the officer should recommend suitable conditions to be included in the licence to be issued by Lands D. A list of suggested conditions are given in the attached Appendix for reference. These conditions should be modified if necessary to suit particular circumstances of each case.

9. The officer should focus on the aspect of maintenance only; other aspects like the impact to the operation of the tunnel should be referred to other concerned departments for their consideration.

10. The officer should request a copy of the finalized licence conditions from Lands D for record.

(Original Signed)
(WAN Man-lung)
Director of Highways (Ag.)