

CHAPTER 2

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT STREAMLINED EXCAVATION PERMIT APPLICATION

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STREAMLINED EXCAVATION PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS

2.1 When a street excavation promoter carries out road opening works, he needs to liaise with different government departments, namely, Transport Department (TD), Highways Department (HyD) and Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) to seek traffic advice, to obtain an excavation permit (XP) before he can actually commence the road opening works on site. He also has to approach the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for issue of a construction noise permit if so required.

2.2 In the past, prior to the implementation of the streamlined XP application process, there might be cases which conflicting requirements were imposed by different government departments on a proposed excavation works. The road excavation promoter had to make extra effort to resolve those conflicting requirements. There might be cases that additional requirements were imposed on the proposed excavation work after the issuance of the XP. This had lead to delay in commencement of the excavation works.

2.3 HyD, in collaboration with relevant government departments, has implemented the streamlined XP application process since May 2002. The process aims at the elimination of the above-mentioned deficiencies. Once an XP is issued, the road excavation works can commence straight away.

2.4 The process flow chart and notes of the streamlined XP application process are at Appendix 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 respectively.