

Guidelines on  
the Use of Non-Standard Pavings in Public Footways

The following guidelines should be used for processing non-standard paving applications:

(1) Reasons for Use of Non-Standard Pavings

- (a) Simply matching the footway finish with the architectural finish of the building should not be accepted as a good reason.
- (b) In case a lot owner agrees to dedicate a large area within the private lot for public passage and applies to pave the adjoining footway with the same paving, it can be taken as a good reason to adopt the proposed paving (subject to the other conditions) if the proposal will bring about major improvement to the streetscape of the area.

(2) Lot Owner to Maintain Non-Standard Paving

- (a) The lot owner should have an undertaking or agreement (preferably as part of the leased condition) to accept the maintenance responsibility and other obligations.

(3) Lot Owner Capability and Reliability on Paving Maintenance

- (a) It must be demonstrated that the lot owner has the set up and the intention to maintain the paving in good condition in the long term. This is to avoid being accused of shifting the maintenance duty to lot owner in an irresponsible manner knowing too well that he will not be able to maintain the pavings properly.

- (b) Examples of acceptable lot owners are owners of prestigious commercial buildings who have the self-interest to maintain the adjoining footway properly to enhance their property value. Buildings likely to be subject to multi-ownership problems are not acceptable.
- (c) In case a lot owner dedicate an adjoining private area to public passage and surface the dedicated area with the same proposed special finish, we can be reasonably sure that he is capable of maintaining the proposed non-standard pavings on the public footway because he has to maintain the same within the private area anyway.
- (d) The paving material shall be readily available in the market. Spare paving blocks, storage facilities and details of the supplier should be provided.

(4) Non-Standard Paving not Inferior to Standard Paving

- (a) The lot owner should be required to demonstrate that the non-standard pavings are not inferior to the HyD standard pavings in respect of skid-resistance, durability and strength.
- (b) Design and construction details of the paving shall follow Highways Standards, in particular the appropriate sections of Road Note 9 if precast concrete unit paving system is used.
- (c) The foundation details including bedding layers shall be acceptable to HyD. (Construction standard shall follow Hong Kong Government General Specification for Civil Engineering Works.)

(5) Compatibility

- (a) The applicant shall satisfy HyD Landscaping Unit that the non-standard pavings are aesthetically compatible with the pavings of the adjoining footways and the streetscape of the area.
  
- (b) Ideally non-standard pavings, if accepted, shall be applied to footways on all four sides of a street block. In this connection, applications to apply for non-standard pavings on a section of a footway or on footways adjoining buildings with only two frontages are definitely not acceptable.