
Buildings Legislation (Amendment) Ordinance 2012

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HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

ORDINANCE NO. 24 OF 2012



C. Y. LEUNG
Chief Executive
19 July 2012

An Ordinance to amend the Buildings Ordinance and the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2011 to provide for matters relating to the issue of warrants authorizing entry into premises or upon land; to require registered inspectors to notify the Building Authority of certain unauthorized building works; to provide for surcharges on costs recoverable by the Building Authority under the Buildings Ordinance; to extend the application of sections 39B and 39C of that Ordinance; and to make minor amendments.

[20 July 2012]

Enacted by the Legislative Council.

Part 1

Preliminary

1. Short title and commencement

- (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Buildings Legislation (Amendment) Ordinance 2012.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), this Ordinance comes into operation on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

Buildings Legislation (Amendment) Ordinance 2012

Part 1

Ord. No. 24 of 2012

Section 1

A2935

(3) Sections 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary by notice published in the Gazette.

(4) In subsection (3)—

Secretary (局長) has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123).

Part 2

Amendments to Buildings Ordinance

2. Buildings Ordinance amended

The Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) is amended as set out in sections 3 to 8.

3. Section 2 amended (interpretation)

Section 2(3)—

Repeal

“Schedule 4 or 5”

Substitute

“Schedule 4, 5 or 8”.

4. Section 22 amended (powers of Building Authority)

(1) Section 22(1)—

Repeal

“The Building Authority or any public officer authorized in writing by him in that behalf”

Substitute

“Subject to subsection (1A), the Building Authority or an authorized officer”.

(2) Section 22(1)(b)—

Repeal

“or drainage system”

Substitute

“, drainage system, sewerage works or sewerage system”.

(3) After section 22(1)—

Add

“(1A) Except in case of emergency, neither the Building Authority nor an authorized officer may enter or break into the premises, or enter upon the land under subsection (1) unless—

(a) the entry is permitted by the owner, occupier, or person who appears to have control or management of the premises or land; or

(b) a warrant is obtained under subsection (1B).

(1B) A magistrate may issue a warrant authorizing the Building Authority or an authorized officer to enter and, if necessary, break into any premises or enter upon any land for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (1) if the magistrate is satisfied by information on oath that—

(a) there are reasonable grounds for suspecting—

(i) with respect to building works that have been or are being carried out to the premises or land—

(A) that there is a material divergence or deviation from any plan approved by the Building Authority under this Ordinance or required to be submitted to the Building Authority under the simplified requirements; or

(B) that they are not in compliance with the standard of structural stability, public health or fire safety established by regulations;

(ii) that the use of the premises has been changed in contravention of section 25(1) or (2);

- (iii) that the premises have been, or the land has been, rendered dangerous, or the premises are, or the land is, liable to become dangerous;
 - (iv) that the drains or sewers of the premises or land are in a defective or insanitary condition; or
 - (v) that a notice or order served under this Ordinance has not been complied with;
 - (b) the entry into the premises or upon the land by the Building Authority or an authorized officer—
 - (i) was refused; or
 - (ii) could not be gained despite a visit made to the premises or land on at least 2 different days; and
 - (c) notice of the intention to apply for a warrant has been served on the owner or occupier of the premises or land.
- (1C) A warrant issued under subsection (1B) must specify—
- (a) the premises or land to be entered;
 - (b) the purpose of the entry;
 - (c) the name and capacity of the person authorized to enter the premises or land; and
 - (d) the date of the issue of the warrant.
- (1D) If the Building Authority or an authorized officer enters or breaks into any premises, or enters upon any land, under a warrant issued under subsection (1B), the Building Authority or authorized officer must produce to the owner, occupier, or person who appears to have control or management of the premises or land the warrant for inspection.

- (1E) When entering any premises or land under this section, the Building Authority or an authorized officer may be accompanied by any person that the Building Authority or authorized officer considers necessary for the purpose of the entry.
- (1F) On leaving any unoccupied premises or land entered under this section, the Building Authority or an authorized officer must leave the premises or land as effectually secured against trespassers as the premises or land was found at the time of entry.
- (1G) A warrant issued under subsection (1B) continues in force until the purpose for which entry is necessary has been fulfilled.”.

(4) Section 22(2)(b)—

Repeal

“a public officer authorized under this section may take such steps as he may deem”

Substitute

“an authorized officer may take any steps that he or she considers”.

(5) After section 22(4)—

Add

“(5) In this section—

authorized officer (獲授權人員) means a public officer authorized in writing by the Building Authority for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (1).”.

5. Section 33 amended (recovery of costs of works by Building Authority)

Section 33(1)—

Repeal

“he may”

Substitute

“the Building Authority may impose a surcharge of not exceeding 20% on the cost due and may”.

6. Section 38 amended (regulations)

After section 38(1)(ke)(i)—

Add

- “(ia) the prescription of a date in relation to any prescribed building or building works for the purposes of section 39C(1A)(a);
- (ib) the prescription of the requirement for periodic compliance with the requirements in section 39C(2), (3) and (4) in respect of any prescribed building or building works for the purposes of section 39C(1A)(c);
- (ic) the prescription of the details in relation to any prescribed building or building works specified in Schedule 8;”.

7. Section 39C amended (Building Authority shall not serve order under section 24 or notice under section 24C)

- (1) Section 39C, English text, heading—

Repeal

“shall”

Substitute

“must”.

- (2) Section 39C—

Repeal subsection (1)

Substitute

- “(1) Despite sections 24 and 24C, the Building Authority must not serve an order under section 24 or a notice under section 24C in respect of a prescribed building or building works on the ground that the building or building works have been completed or carried out in contravention of section 14(1), if—
- (a) the building or building works were completed or carried out before 31 December 2010; and
 - (b) with respect to the building or building works, the requirements in subsections (2), (3) and (4) have been complied with.
- (1A) Despite sections 24 and 24C, the Building Authority must not serve an order under section 24 or a notice under section 24C in respect of a prescribed building or building works on the ground that the building or building works have been completed or carried out in contravention of section 14(1) or not in compliance with the simplified requirements, if—
- (a) the building or building works were completed or carried out before a date prescribed in the Minor Works Regulation in relation to the prescribed building or building works;
 - (b) with respect to the building or building works, the requirements in subsections (2), (3) and (4) have been complied with; and
 - (c) with respect to the building or building works, if periodic compliance with those requirements is required by the Minor Works Regulation, those requirements are complied with in accordance with the Minor Works Regulation.”.

(3) Section 39C(2)—

Repeal

“regulations”

Substitute

“Minor Works Regulation”.

(4) Section 39C(3)—

Repeal

“regulations”

Substitute

“Minor Works Regulation”.

(5) Section 39C(5)—

Repeal

“(1)”

Substitute

“(1) or (1A)”.

(6) Section 39C(6)—

Repeal paragraph (a).

(7) Before section 39C(6)(b)—

Add

“(aa) *Minor Works Regulation* (《小型工程規例》) means the Building (Minor Works) Regulation (Cap. 123 sub. leg. N);”.

(8) Section 39C(6)—

Repeal paragraph (b)

Substitute

“(b) *prescribed building or building works* (訂明建築物或建築工程)—

- (i) in relation to subsection (1), means a building or building works prescribed in the Minor Works Regulation as prescribed building or building works;
- (ii) in relation to subsection (1A), means a building or building works specified in Schedule 8; and
- (iii) in relation to subsection (2) or (4), means a building or building works falling within subparagraph (i) or (ii).”.

8. Schedule 8 added

At the end of the Ordinance—

Add

“Schedule 8

[ss. 2, 38
& 39C]

Prescribed Building or Building Works

Item	Description
1.	Signboard of a kind prescribed under section 38(1)(ke)(ic).”.

Part 3

Amendment to Building (Minor Works) Regulation

9. Building (Minor Works) Regulation amended

The Building (Minor Works) Regulation (Cap. 123 sub. leg. N) is amended as set out in section 10.

10. Section 62 amended (provisions relating to section 39C of Ordinance)

Section 62(1)—

Repeal

“in section 39C(6)(b)”

Substitute

“given by section 39C(6)(b)(i) of the Ordinance in relation to section 39C(1)”.

Part 4

Amendments to Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2011

11. Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2011 amended

The Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2011 (16 of 2011) is amended as set out in sections 12 to 14.

12. Section 20 amended (Part IIA added)

(1) Section 20, new section 30B(11)—

Repeal

“, together with a surcharge of not exceeding 20% on the cost that the Building Authority may impose,”.

(2) Section 20, new section 30C(9)—

Repeal

“, together with a surcharge of not exceeding 20% on the cost that the Building Authority may impose,”.

(3) Section 20, new section 30D(5)—

Repeal

everything after “must”

Substitute

“—

- (a) notify the Building Authority of any case of emergency that is revealed during the course of the prescribed inspection; and
- (b) if the prescribed inspection is carried out under section 30B(3), also notify the Building Authority of any building works—

- (i) that have been or are being carried out in contravention of any provision of this Ordinance to—
 - (A) the common parts of the building;
 - (B) any external wall, roof or podium of the building (other than the common parts);
 - (C) any yard or slope adjoining the building;
or
 - (D) any street on which the building fronts or abuts; and
- (ii) that are identified during the course of the prescribed inspection.”.

13. Section 21 amended (recovery of costs of works by Building Authority)

Section 21—

Repeal subsection (3).

14. Section 26 amended (obstruction of owners’ corporation)

(1) Section 26(1)—

Repeal

everything after “order” and before “in relation”

Substitute

“or notice has been served on the owners’ corporation under any provision of this Ordinance”.

(2) Section 26(4), new section 39B(1A)—

Repeal

everything after “building that” and before “in relation”

Substitute

“an order or notice has been served on the owners’ corporation under any provision of this Ordinance”.

- (3) Section 26(4), new section 39B(1A)—

Repeal

“with the notice”

Substitute

“with the order or notice”.