

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-ENB01

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department      Subhead:

Question Serial No.

SV002

Programme :            (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

In response to Mr. Tommy CHEUNG, the Administration undertook to provide a flow chart setting out the mechanism and time frame for processing appeal cases for trade effluent surcharge (TES) rates and discharge factors for sewage charges and TES.

Asked by :            Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

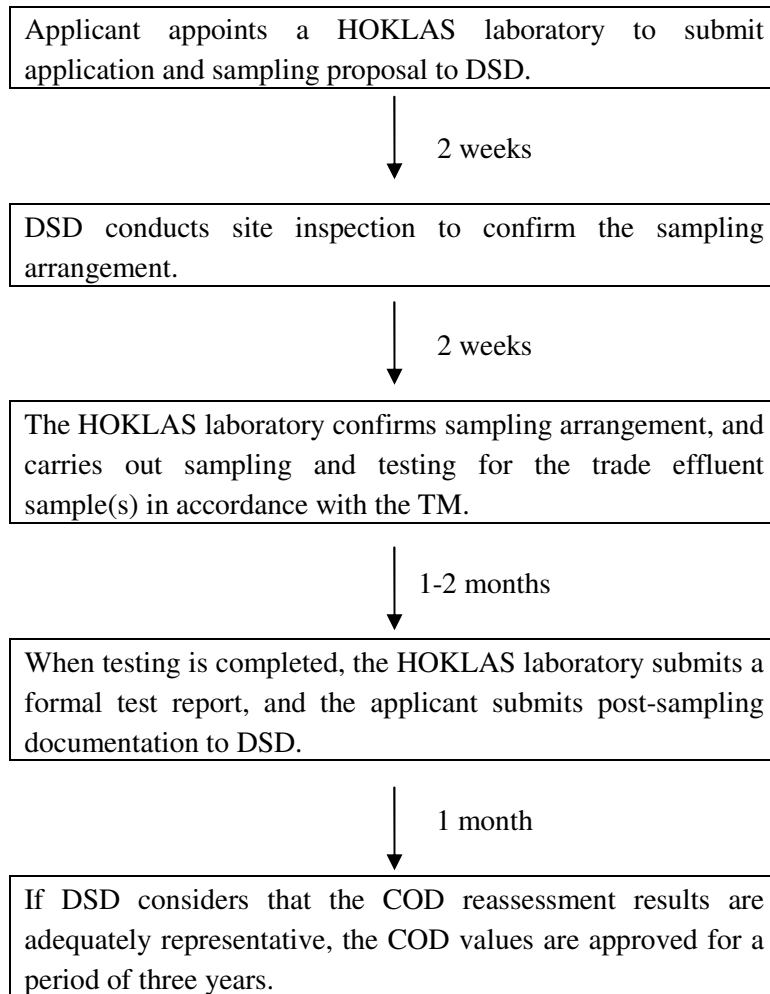
The mechanism and procedures of the application for reassessment of trade effluent surcharge (TES) rates and discharge factors for sewage charge and TES have been publicised and can be found in the website of the Drainage Services Department (DSD).

Procedures for assessing discharge factors for sewage charge and TES are relatively straight-forward and require the applicant to demonstrate that the volume of sewage discharged into the public sewerage system is not more than 85% of the chargeable volume of water. Upon receipt of all documental evidence and required information, six to eight weeks will be needed to process the application.

The procedures for TES rates reassessment include collecting and analysing representative samples of trade effluents, as detailed in the Technical Memorandum on Procedures and Methods for Sampling and Analysis of Trade Effluents (TM). They are summarised as follows -

- A TES payable consumer who is producing lower pollution strength effluent can apply for a Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) reassessment for variation of the TES rate.
- The applicant should appoint an approved laboratory accredited under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS laboratory) to submit an application.
- Upon receipt of all required information, DSD will conduct site inspection to the concerned premises normally within two weeks to confirm the sampling arrangement and to verify the information submitted by the applicant.
- Sampling dates will be agreed amongst the applicant, the HOKLAS laboratory and DSD.
- Sampling conducted by the HOKLAS laboratory appointed by the applicant, depending on water consumption rates, will comprise two to six days of whole-day sample collection.
- During the course of sampling, DSD will inspect the site at any time to confirm that the agreed sampling protocol is being complied with, and that the trade activities and practices, including all pollution control measures affecting the effluent quality, are normal and strictly adhered to.
- When sampling is completed, the HOKLAS laboratory will carry out COD tests on the samples and submit a formal test report to DSD.

- DSD may conduct surprise ‘re-grab’ or ‘re-visit’ to verify whether the COD values submitted are sufficiently representative and to ensure that proper pollution control measures are adopted all the time during sampling.
- If DSD considers that the COD reassessment results are adequately representative, the COD values will be approved. If the approved COD values are lower than the generic values, a new TES rate will be derived from the COD values according to the charging matrix shown in Schedule D of the Sewage Services Ordinance (Cap. 463) and applied to the relevant TES account(s) for three years.
- A typical time frame is set out below -



Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ CHAN Chi-chiu \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 30 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_