

SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

Our Ref. : CD/FSSD/12/02/03/01

Your Ref :

Date : 7 June 2011



HQ Singapore Civil Defence Force

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Registrar, Board of Architects (BOA)
Registrar, Professional Engineers Board (PEB)
President, Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)
President, Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)
President, Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore (ACES)

Dear Sir/Mdm

RELOCATION OF GAS METER AND PIPE IN HDB BLOCKS

In the past i.e. before 1990, gas meters were installed in kitchens, exit staircases and lift lobbies in HDB blocks. Upon requests by the residents, some meters that were previously installed in the kitchens were relocated to the common areas. However, since October 2010, PowerGas and City Gas have stopped acceding to such requests after being informed by SCDF that installation of gas meters in exit staircases and lift lobbies is not allowed due to fire safety reason.

2. We have clarified with PowerGas and City Gas that exit staircases in HDB blocks are for escape purpose during an emergency. Therefore, gas meters/gas pipes shall not be in exit staircase or lift lobby which is interconnected with the exit staircase as this would jeopardize fire safety in the event of a fire happening near such installation.

3. However, SCDF permits the relocation of gas meter and pipe in external corridor, subject to the following conditions (please see Annex A for illustration):

- a) Roofed over portion of the corridor shall not exceed 3m in depth;
- b) The vertical height of the unobstructed ventilation opening measured from the parapet wall or balustrade up to the top edge of the opening or eaves of overhang, whichever is lower, shall not be less than 1.2m;
- c) Ventilation opening of the residential apartment shall not be lower than 1.1m, measured from the finished floor level of the external corridor to the sill level of the opening; and



- d) The gas meter and pipe shall not be located within 3m from the entrance of the exit staircase (please see Annex B).
4. Qualified Person (i.e. Registered Architect or Professional Engineer) shall lodge a Minor Addition and Alteration (MAA) plan within 21 days upon completion of the works. Inspection of the works by Registered Inspector is not required.
5. If the relocation of gas meter and pipe cannot fulfil the above conditions, a Professional Engineer (Mechanical) shall be engaged to submit a Mechanical Ventilation (MV) plan, showing the fire-rated enclosure to the gas meter and pipe with proper venting to the external for any gas leak. Inspection of the completed works by Registered Inspector is required in this instance. The workflow process for MAA plan or MV plan submission is attached in Annex C.
6. For existing gas meters that are already located in the exit staircase or lift lobby which is interconnected with the exit staircase, SCDF will work with HDB, EMA, PowerGas and City Gas to resolve the matter.
7. This Circular shall take immediate effect. Please convey the contents of this Circular to members of your Institution/Association/Board. The Circular is available in CORENET-e-Info: <http://www.corenet.gov.sg/einfo>.
8. For any inquiry or clarification, please contact: CPT Cheong Yew Dong at Tel: 68481408 or Email: Cheong_yew_dong@scdf.gov.sg.

Yours faithfully,

(transmitted via e-mail)
Poon Keng Soon
Secretary, FSSD Standing Committee
for Commissioner
Singapore Civil Defence Force

cc
All members of FSSD Standing Committee
President, REDAS
President, IFE
President, SISV
CEO, BCA
CEO, URA
CEO, HDB

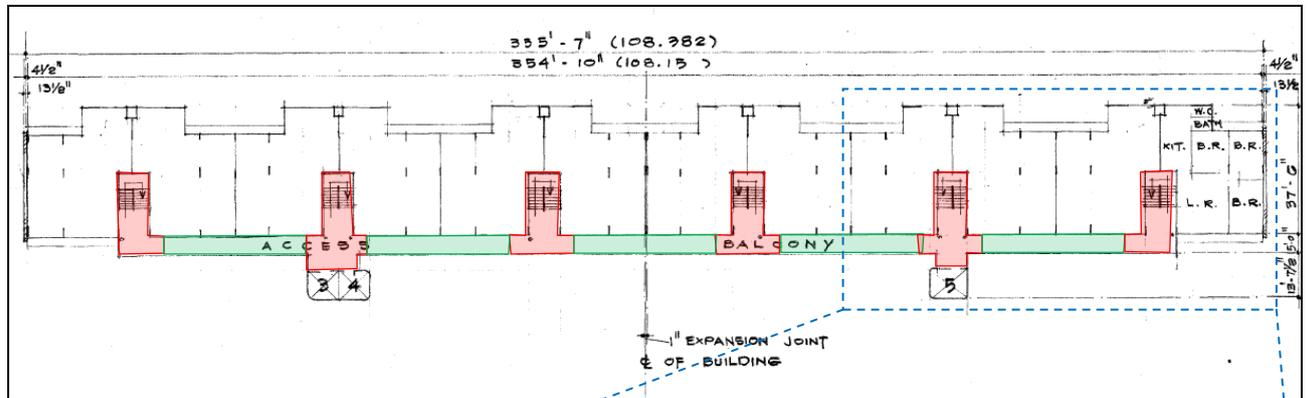
CEO, PSA
CEO, JTC
CE, LTA
CE, TUV SUD PSB – (Attn: Ms Emily Mok/ Mr Lau Keong Ong)
CE, SPRING Singapore – (Attn: Mr Kenneth Lim)
President, FSMAS
Honorary Secretary, SPM
All Secretaries of Town Councils

Photo showing external corridor requirements

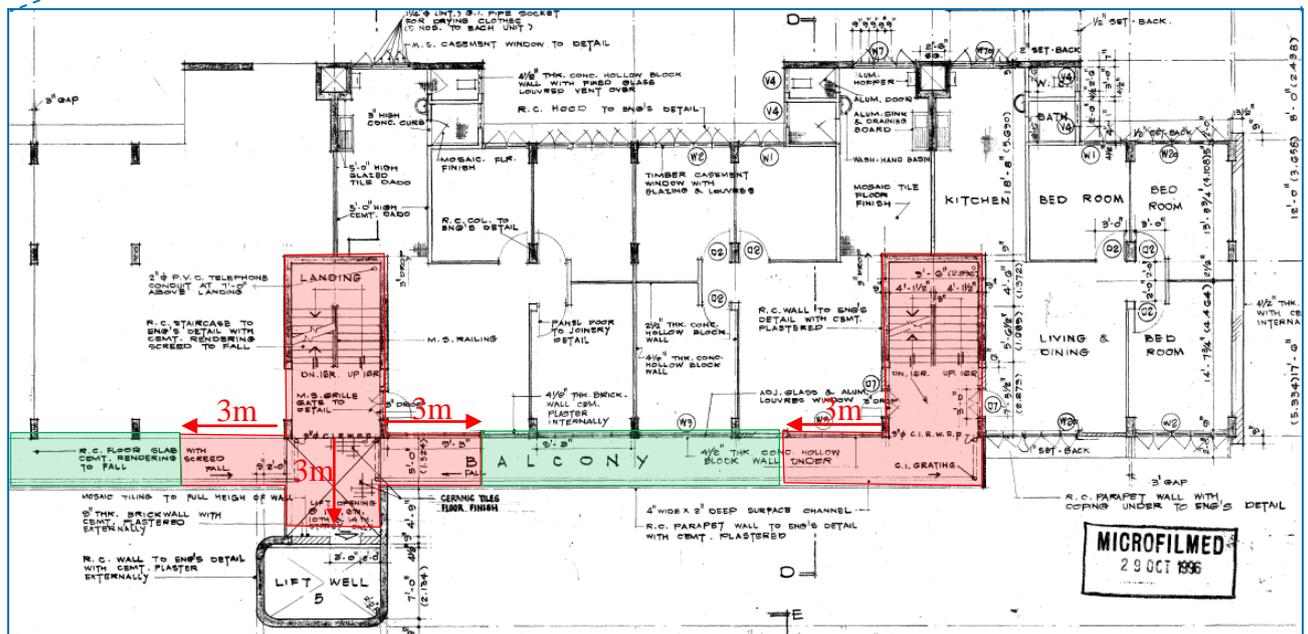


Pre-1990 HDB layout where relocation of gas meter is permitted/not permitted

Not permitted location -
 Permitted location -



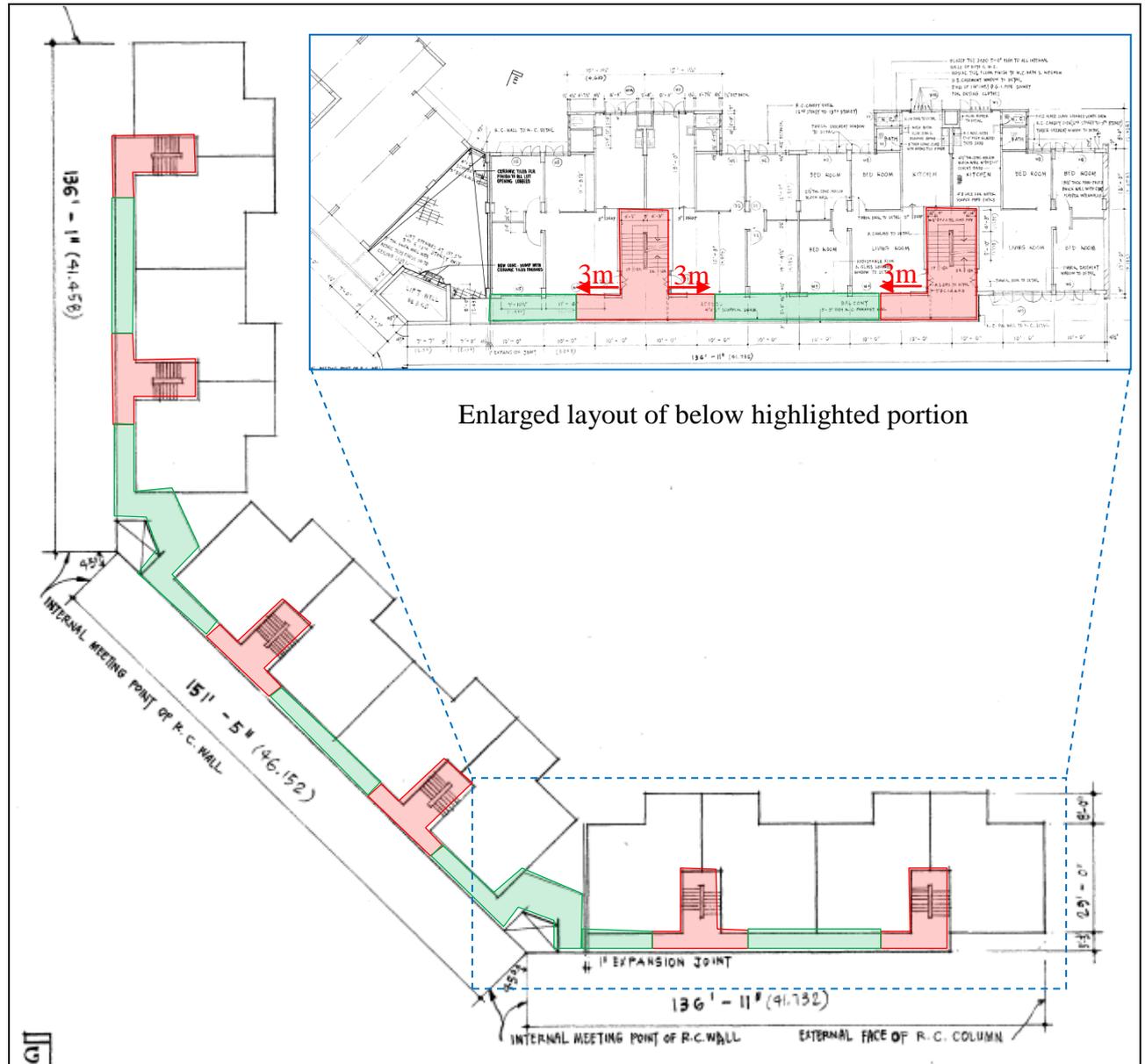
Enlarged layout of above highlighted portion



Layout 1 : Typical slab-block with external corridor/common access balcony
 - Gas meter and pipe shall not be located within 3m from the entrance of the exit staircase

Pre-1990 HDB block layout where relocation of gas meter is permitted/not permitted

Not permitted location -
 Permitted location -



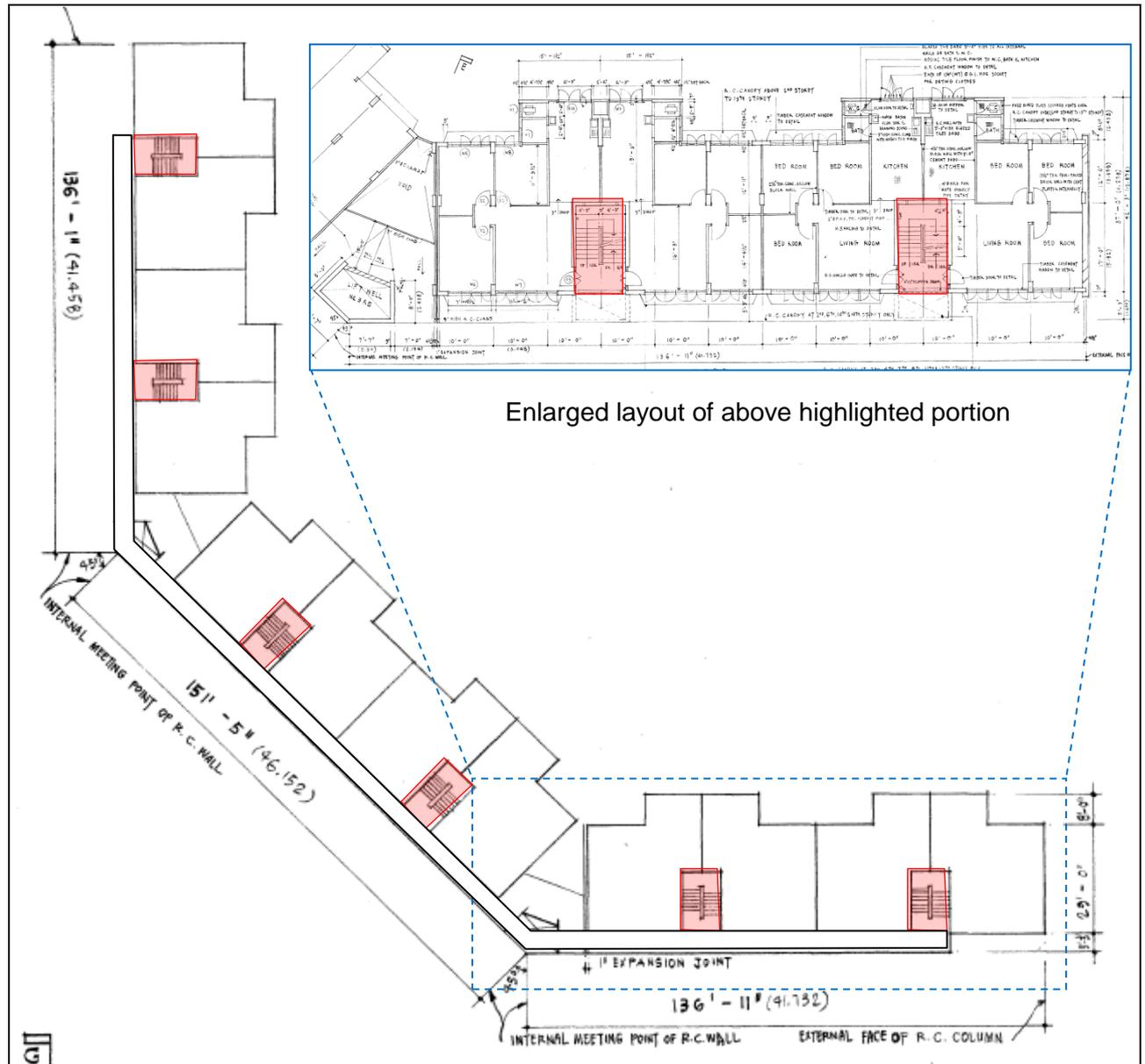
Enlarged layout of below highlighted portion

Layout 2 : Typical segmented block with external corridor/common access balcony

- Gas meter and pipe shall not be located within 3m from the entrance of the exit staircase

Pre-1990 HDB block layout where relocation of gas meter is permitted/not permitted

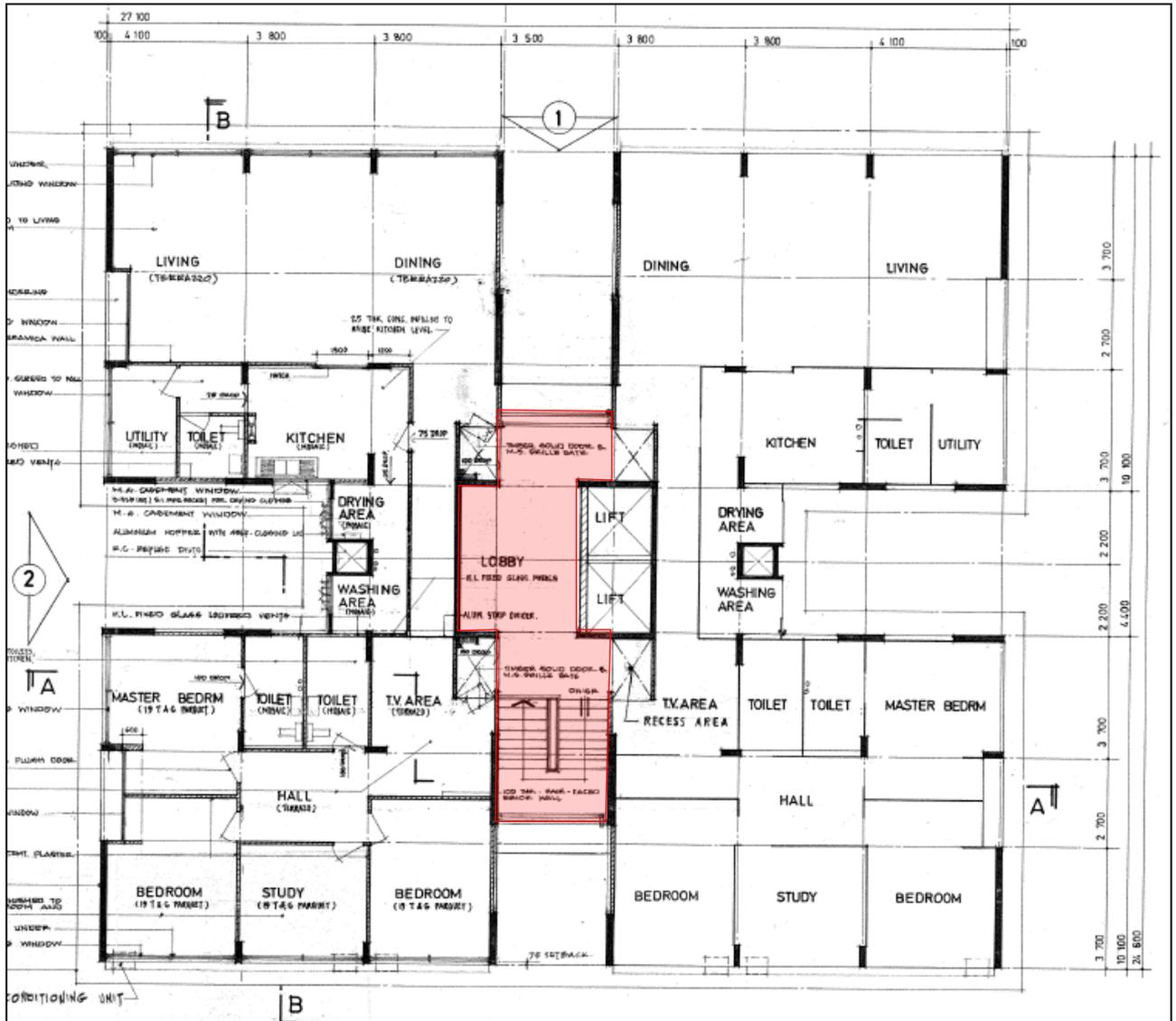
Not permitted location -
 Permitted location -



Layout 3 : Typical segmented block without external corridor
 - Gas meter and pipe shall not be located within the exit staircase

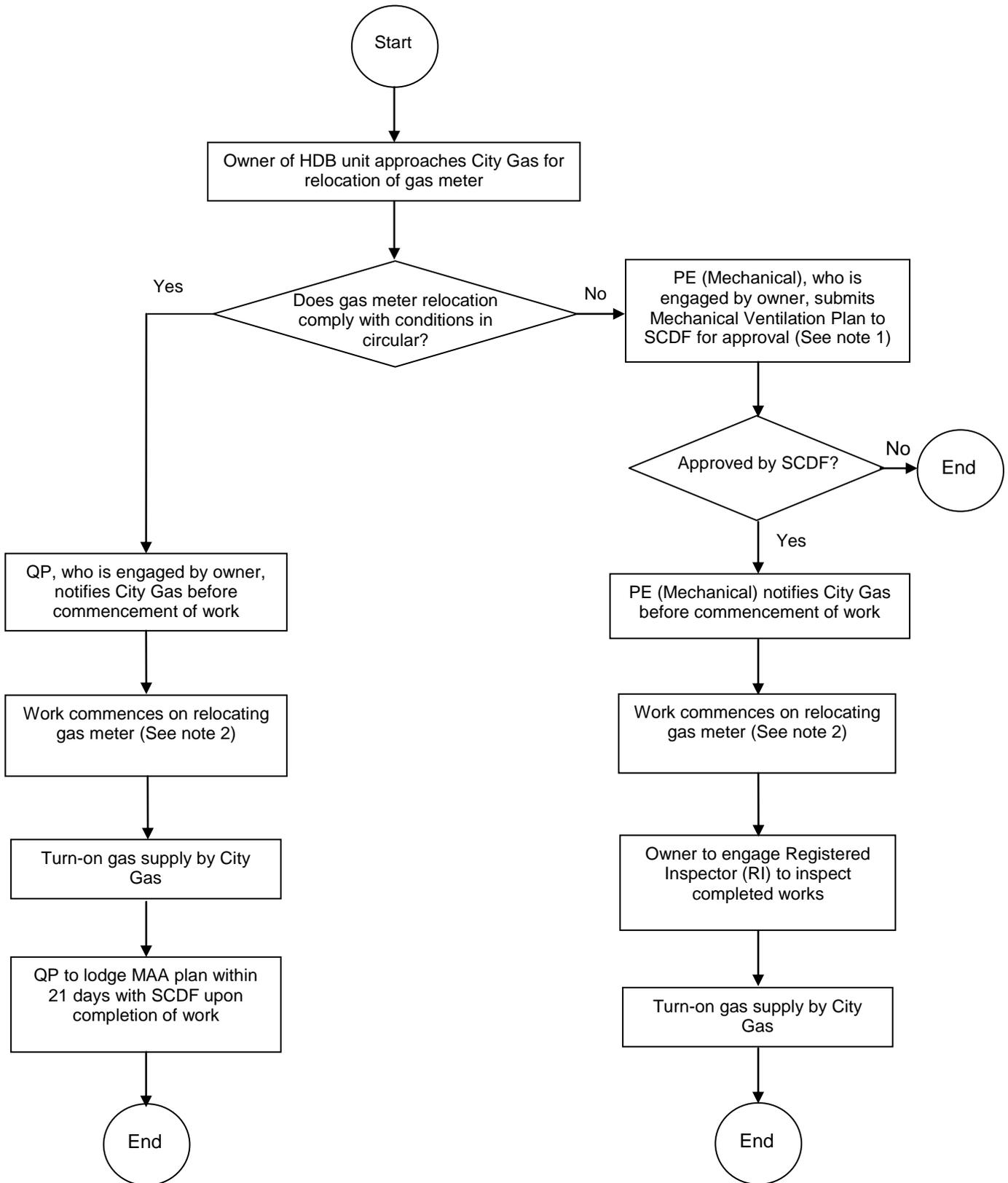
Pre-1990 HDB block layout where relocation of gas meter is permitted/not permitted

Not permitted location -
 Permitted location -



Layout 4 : Typical point block - Gas meter and pipe shall not be located in lift lobby which is interconnected with the exit staircase

WORKFLOW FOR RELOCATION OF GAS METER & PIPE IN HDB BLOCK



(1) PE (Mechanical) shall submit Mechanical Ventilation Plan to SCDF for approval of the fire rated enclosure to the gas meter and pipe with proper venting to external for any gas leak.

(2) QP/PE (Mechanical) shall inform Town Council of the relocation work.