

REMINDER ON REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND GUIDELINES

Reference: NEA/EP/PDD/05-00075

Date: 15 June 2017

CIRCULAR TO PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Who should know

Developers, Architects, Engineers

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reminder On Requirements Of The Code Of Practice On Environmental Health and Guidelines

It has come to NEA's attention that an increasing number of building plan submissions to the Central Building Plan Department (CBPD) were found to be in non-compliance with the Code of Practice on Environmental Health (COPEH) and guidelines. The purpose of this circular is to remind Qualified Persons (QPs) on the seriousness of non-compliance with the COPEH and guidelines, which could have an adverse impact on public health and the environment. The following requirements where non-compliances were found are highlighted for your attention.

Bin Centre

- a) The required roller shutter opening of a bin centre is 4m (clear width) x 5m (clear height) and this requirement is applicable to bin centers housing roll-on roll-off refuse compactors/containers and other refuse storage systems that require haulage.
- b) If the bin centre is located within the building envelope or designed with a roof or shelter at the front, there should be sufficient clearance of at least 4m (clear width) x 5m (clear height) for the haulage of the roll-on roll-off refuse compactors/containers (please see **Fig 1**).

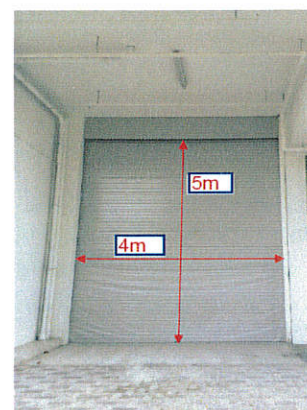


Fig 1: Typical example of the measurements of a Bin Centre roller shutter opening.

- c) A setback distance of at least 13m shall be provided to ensure that the bin centre is accessible to refuse collection vehicles. The swept path of a refuse truck from the main or service road to bin centre shall meet the minimum required turning radius of 9m and also be free of obstructions. The QP shall check and ensure that the refuse trucks which are about 10m in length are able to easily manoeuvre and effectively access the bin centre (please see **Fig 2**).

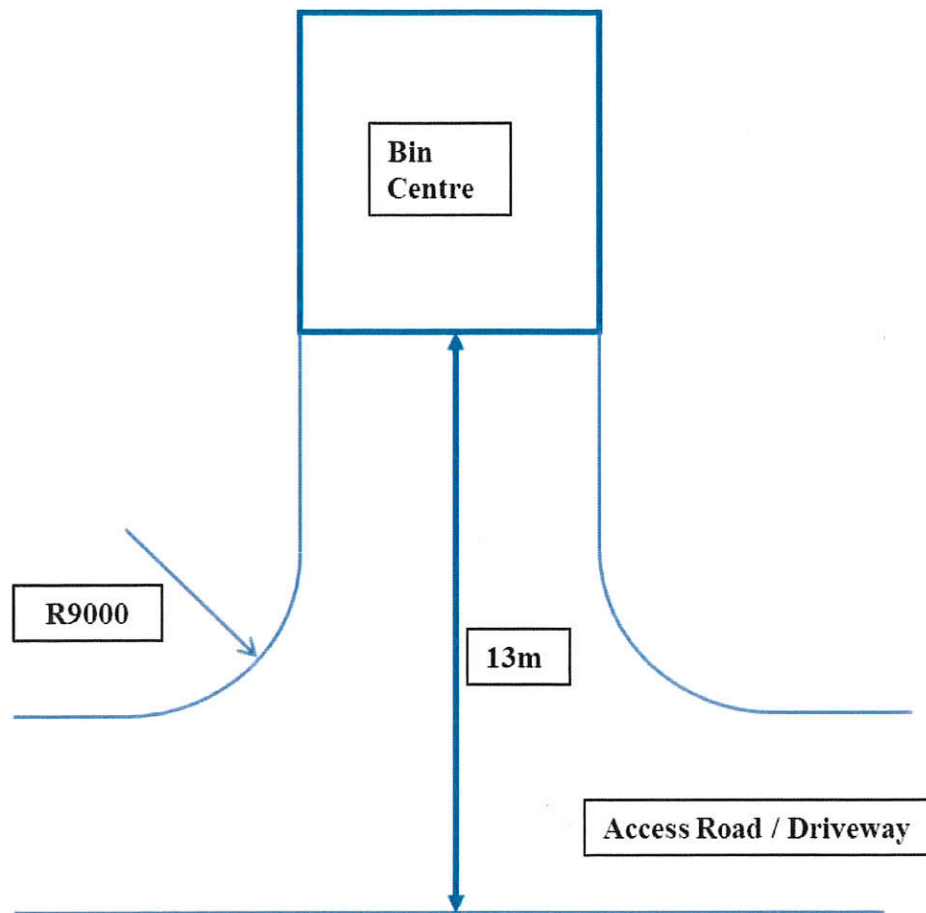


Fig 2: Typical example of a bin centre setback distance and turning radius

- d) Gully traps complete with strainers shall be provided within the bin centre. The location of the gully trap may vary according to the type of equipment installed. The QP may refer to PUB's Code of Practice on Sewerage and Sanitary Works Drawing for the design of the sanitary drainage system for bin centres and refuse chutes.
- e) To mitigate the risk of falling roll-on roll-off refuse compactors/containers, the bin centre's floor level shall be at the same level as the access road for the haulage of the roll-on roll-off refuse compactors/containers.

Refuse Chute Ventilation Openings

- a) If the roof of the building is being used as a habitable floor (i.e. as a roof terrace or garden), the refuse chute ventilation openings shall be located at least 2.1m above the roof level and be positioned away from the habitable area so as to minimise any smell nuisance. The QP is

reminded to check that the ventilation openings do not pose smell nuisance to users of the roof levels.

Refuse Chute and Chamber

- a) Refuse chute shall be provided for buildings taller than 4 storeys.
- b) The refuse chute chamber shall be large enough to house a wheeled refuse bin with cover, which can contain at least one (1) day of refuse output generated from the premises connected to the chute. It is the responsibility of the QP to check and ensure that the bulk bin in the refuse chamber is able to meet the one (1) day refuse output. The bin centre shall also be sized accordingly to accommodate the storage of bulk bins from all refuse chambers.
- c) Should the daily refuse output exceed 660 L/day for the development, the daily frequency of changing bulk bins shall not exceed three (3) times per refuse chute. This requirement shall be effective from 15 June 2017. Adequate measures shall also be provided to prevent any spillage of refuse, so as to minimise the smell and hygiene nuisance to the surrounding areas.

Public Toilet

- a) A public toilet is defined as a toilet within premises which the general public has free access, regardless of payment/ non-payment to access the premises. The general public is free to access the public toilet without having to be a resident, student, staff, member or a guest, or a regular client.
- b) Public toilets shall be located on every floor at accessible common areas in commercial/mixed-commercial developments. The provision of public toilets shall comply with the requirements in Appendix 2 of the Code of Practice on Environmental Health.

2 In addition to the requirements stipulated in the COPEH, the QP shall also comply with the siting requirements stipulated in the Code of Practice for Control of Legionella Bacteria in Cooling Towers.

Cooling Towers

- a) The location of cooling towers must comply with the minimum 5m setback requirements, which are stipulated under Section 5 of the aforesaid Code of Practice. For guidelines on measurement of 5m distance, QPs may refer to NEA's earlier circular NEA-EHDHQ-CIRCULAR-ADVISORY-00012P dated 25 January 2016.
- b) Any submissions involving cooling towers shall include drawing plans that show the layout of the site where cooling tower is to be located, with a 5m radius clearly annotated to show compliance with the requirements (please refer to the circular NEA-EHDHQ-CIRCULAR-ADVISORY-00012P dated 25 January 2016 for more details).

3 Please note that it is the responsibility of the QP to ensure compliance with the environmental related Acts, Regulations, Codes of Practice and guidelines to prevent any adverse impact to public health and the environment.

4 For further enquiries, please contact NEA Hotline at 1800-2255 632 or submit them electronically via the Online Feedback Form at <http://www.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/feedback> or mobile application (myENV). We would appreciate it if you could disseminate the content of this circular to your members. Thank you.

Sincerely



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