

**Relevant Extract of Town Planning Board Guidelines for
Application for Open Storage and Port Back-up Uses
(TPB PG-No.13E)**

1. On 17.10.2008, the Town Planning Board Guidelines for Application for Open Storage and Port Back-up Uses under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (TPB PG-No. 13E) were promulgated, which set out the following criteria for the various categories of area:
 - (a) Category 1 areas: favourable consideration will normally be given to applications within these areas, subject to no major adverse departmental comments and local objections, or the concerns of the departments and local residents can be addressed through the implementation of approval conditions. Technical assessments should be submitted if the proposed uses may cause significant environmental and traffic concerns;
 - (b) Category 2 areas: planning permission could be granted on a temporary basis up to a maximum period of 3 years, subject to no adverse departmental comments and local objections, or the concerns of the departments and local residents can be addressed through the implementation of approval conditions. Technical assessments, where appropriate, should be submitted to demonstrate that the proposed uses would not have adverse drainage, traffic, visual, landscaping and environmental impacts on the surrounding areas;
 - (c) Category 3 areas: Within these areas, “existing” and approved open storage and port back-up uses are to be contained and further proliferation of such uses is not acceptable. Applications within Category 3 areas would normally not be considered unless the applications are on sites with previous planning approvals. Sympathetic consideration may be given if the applicants have demonstrated genuine efforts in compliance with approval conditions of the previous planning applications and included in the fresh applications relevant technical assessments/proposals to demonstrate that the proposed uses would not generate adverse drainage, traffic, visual, landscaping and environmental impacts on the surrounding areas. Planning permission could be granted on a temporary basis up to a maximum period of 3 years, subject to no adverse departmental comments and local objections, or the concerns of the departments and local residents can be addressed through the implementation of approval conditions; and
 - (d) Category 4 areas: applications would normally be rejected except under exceptional circumstances. For applications on sites with previous planning approvals, and subject to no adverse departmental comments and local objections, sympathetic consideration may be given if the applicants have demonstrated genuine efforts in compliance with approval conditions of the previous planning applications and included in the applications relevant technical assessments/proposals to demonstrate that the proposed uses would not generate adverse drainage, traffic, visual, landscaping and environmental impacts on the surrounding areas. The intention is however to encourage the phasing out of such non-conforming uses as early as possible. A maximum period of 2 years may be allowed upon renewal of

planning permission for an applicant to identify suitable sites for relocation. No further renewal of approval will be given unless under very exceptional circumstances and each application for renewal of approval will be assessed on its individual merit.

2. In assessing applications for open storage and port back-up uses, the other major relevant assessment criteria are also summarized as follows:
 - (a) there will be a general presumption against development on sites of less than 1,000m² for open storage uses and 2,000m² for port back-up uses in rural areas, other than sites located in major corridors, industrial/godown/workshop areas, quarrying activities or where it is demonstrated that optimum use is made of the site. This is to prevent the further proliferation of small sites in rural areas, minimizing sprawl over countryside areas and reducing travel trips;
 - (b) port back-up sites and those types of open storage uses generating adverse noise, air pollution and visual intrusion and frequent heavy vehicle traffic should not be located adjacent to sensitive receivers such as residential dwellings, hospitals, schools and other community facilities;
 - (c) port back-up uses are major generators of traffic, with container trailer/tractor parks generating the highest traffic per unit area. In general, port back-up sites should have good access to the strategic road network, or be accessed by means of purpose built roads;
 - (d) adequate screening of the sites through landscaping and/or fencing should be provided where sites are located adjacent to public roads or are visible from surrounding residential areas;
 - (e) there is a general presumption against conversion of agricultural land and fish ponds to other uses on an ad hoc basis, particularly in flood prone areas or sites which would obstruct natural drainage channels and overland flow; and
 - (f) for applications involving sites with previous planning approvals, should there be no evidence to demonstrate that the applicants have made any genuine effort to comply with the approval conditions of the previous planning applications, planning permission may be refused, or a shorter compliance period for the approval conditions may be imposed, notwithstanding other criteria set out in the Guidelines are complied with.

Detailed Comment from CE/MN of DSD

- (a) The submitted layout plan is illegible. Please submit a clear version for review;
- (b) The existing discharge pipe is described as 600mm in diameter in paragraph 17 of the submission but 1000mm in the submitted layout plan;
- (c) Cross sections showing the existing ground levels of the Site with respect to the adjacent areas should be given;
- (d) Standard details should be provided to indicate the sectional details of the proposed u-channels and catchpits;
- (e) Sand trap or provision alike should be provided before the collected runoff is discharged to the public drainage facilities;
- (f) The development should neither obstruct overland flow nor adversely affect existing natural streams, village drains, ditches and the adjacent areas, etc.; and
- (g) The applicant should consult DLO/YL and seek consent from the relevant owners for any drainage works to be carried out outside the lot boundary before commencement of the drainage works.

Advisory Clauses

- (a) note DLO/YL, LandsD's comments that the Site comprises an Old Schedule Agricultural Lot held under the Block Government Lease which contains the restriction that no structures are allowed to be erected without the prior approval of the Government. The Site is accessible to Kam Tin Road via Government Land (GL) and private land. His office provides no maintenance work for the GL involved and does not guarantee any right-of-way over the GL to the Site. The Site falls within Shek Kong Airfield Height Restriction Area (SKAHRA). The height of the proposed structures will not exceed the relevant airfield height limit within the SKAHRA. The lot owner(s) will need to apply to his office to permit the structures to be erected or regularize any irregularities on site. Such application(s) will be considered by LandsD acting in the capacity as landlord or lessor at its sole discretion and there is no guarantee that such application will be approved. If such application(s) is approved, it will be subject to such terms and conditions, including among others the payment of premium or fee, as may be imposed by the LandsD;
- (b) note C for T's comments that the Site is connected to the public road network via a section of a local access road which is not managed by Transport Department (TD). The land status of the local access road should be checked with the LandsD. Moreover, relevant management and maintenance authorities on using the road for accessing the Site should be consulted.
- (c) note CHE/NTW, HyD's comments that his department does not and will not maintain the access connecting the Site and Kam Tin Road. Adequate drainage measures should be provided to prevent surface water running from the Site to the nearby public roads and drains;
- (d) adopt relevant mitigation measures as set out in the latest "Code of Practice on Handling the Environmental Aspects of Temporary Uses and Open Storage Sites" issued by DEP to minimize any potential environmental nuisances;
- (e) note CE/MN, DSD's detailed comments on the drainage proposal at **Appendix III** of this RNTPC paper;
- (f) note D of FS's comments that in consideration of the design/nature of the proposal, FSIs are anticipated to be required. Therefore, the applicant is advised to submit relevant layout plans incorporated with the proposed FSIs to his department for approval. The layout plan should be drawn to scale and depicted with dimensions and nature of occupancy. The location of where the proposed FSI to be installed should be clearly marked on the layout plans. The applicant is reminded that if the proposed structure(s) is required to comply with the Buildings Ordinance (Cap.123), detailed fire service requirements will be formulated upon receipt of formal submission of general building plans; and
- (g) note CBS/NTW, BD's comments that if the existing structures are erected on leased land without approval of BD (not being a New Territories Exempted

House), they are UBW under the BO and should not be designated for any approved use under the application. Before any new building works (including containers/open sheds as temporary buildings) are to be carried out on the Site, prior approval and consent of BD should be obtained, otherwise they are unauthorized building works (UBW). An Authorized Person should be appointed as the co-ordinator for the proposed building works in accordance with the BO. For UBW erected on leased land, enforcement action may be taken by BD to effect their removal in accordance with BD's enforcement policy against UBW as and when necessary. The granting of any planning approval should not be construed as an acceptance of any existing building works or UBW on the Site under the BO. The Site shall be provided with means of obtaining access thereto from a street and emergency vehicular access in accordance with Regulations 5 and 41D of the Building (Planning) Regulations (B(P)R) respectively. If the Site does not abut on a specified street of not less than 4.5 m wide, its permitted development intensity shall be determined under Regulation 19(3) of the B(P)R at the building plan submission stage.