

**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: applications would normally not be favourably 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 1,000m<sup>2</sup> for open storage uses and 2,000m<sup>2</sup> 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.

**Previous s.16 Applications covering the Application Site**

**Approved Application**

	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Zoning(s) and OZP at the time of consideration</b>	<b>Proposed Use(s)/Development(s)</b>	<b>Date of Consideration (RNTPC/TPB)</b>	<b>Approval Condition(s)</b>
1.	A/YL-HT/101	“U” on draft Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/3	Temporary open storage of brand-new converted containers and refuse skips with ancillary workshop, office and storage facilities (3 years)	8.10.1999 (revoked on 8.7.2000)	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
2.	A/YL-HT/190	“U” on draft Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/4	Temporary open storage of brand new converted containers with refuse skips, ancillary maintenance workshop and ancillary office facilities (3 years)	27.7.2001 by TPB	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
3.	A/YL-HT/352	“U” on draft Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/4	Temporary open storage off brand new converted containers and refuse skips with ancillary workshop and office (3 years)	27.8.2004	5, 9, 10, 11
4.	A/YL-HT/558	“U” on draft Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/9	Temporary open storage of containers (3 years)	18.7.2008	5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13
5.	A/YL-HT/742	“U” on approved Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/10	Temporary Cargo Handling and Forwarding Facility (Logistics Centre) (3 years)	5.8.2011 (revoked on 5.11.2013)	1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14
6.	A/YL-HT/945	“U” on approved Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/10	Temporary Cargo Handling and Forwarding Facility (Logistics Centre) (3 years)	17.4.2015	1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15

**Approval Condition(s):**

1. The submission and the implementation of landscaping and/or tree preservation proposals or the replacement of dead trees.
2. The submission of noise impact assessment/environmental mitigation measures proposals and/or the provision of noise/environmental mitigation measures.
3. The submission of drainage impact assessment or drainage proposals and the provision of drainage facilities and/or flood mitigation measures.
4. Reinstatement clause.
5. Revocation clauses.
6. The provision of fencing and/or paving.
7. The stacking height of the materials/containers stored within 5m of the periphery of the site should not exceed the height of the boundary fence.
8. No night-time operation and/or no operation on Sundays and public holidays.
9. The maintenance of the landscape planting/trees/fencing.
10. The maintenance of the drainage facilities, and/or the submission of a condition record of the existing drainage facilities.
11. The provision of a 9-litres water type/3kg dry power fire extinguisher or the submission and implementation of fire service installations.

12. The stacking height of containers stored within 5m of the periphery of the site shall not exceed the height of the boundary fence, and shall not exceed 7 units at any other location within the site.
13. No cutting, dismantling, cleansing, repairing, compaction and workshop activity, including container repair and vehicle repair.
14. The submission and provision of run-in/out proposal.
15. No vehicle is allowed to queue back to public road or reverse onto/from the public road.

**Similar applications within the same “O” zone  
on the draft Hung Shui Kiu and Ha Tsuen Outline Zoning Plan  
since the promulgation of TPB PG-No. 13E on 17.10.2008**

**Approved Applications**

	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Zoning(s) and OZP at the time of consideration</b>	<b>Applied Use(s)/ Development(s)</b>	<b>Date of Consideration (RNTPC)</b>	<b>Approval Condition(s)</b>
1.	A/YL-HT/610	“U” on the approved Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/10	Temporary Open Storage of Containers, Container Repair Workshop and Logistics Yard (3 Years)	8.5.2009	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
2.	A/YL-HT/834	“U” on the approved Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/10	Temporary Open Storage of Containers, Container Repair Workshop and Logistics Yard (3 Years)	8.2.2013	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
3.	A/YL-HT/1065	“U” on the approved Ha Tsuen OZP No. S/YL-HT/10	Temporary Open Storage of Containers, Container Repair Workshop and Logistics Yard (3 Years)	17.2.2017	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

**Approval Condition:**

- 1 The submission and/or implementation of landscaping and/or tree preservation proposals, and/or provision of replacement planting and/or the replacement of dead trees.
- 2 The submission of DIA/drainage proposals and/or provision of drainage facilities/implementation of the drainage facilities proposed, and/or submission of a condition record of the existing drainage facilities.
- 3 The submission/implementation of FSIs proposals and/or provision of FSIs, with or without sprinkler system/ provision of fire extinguishers.
- 4 Revocation clauses.
- 5 Reinstatement clauses.
- 6 No night-time operation and/or no operation on Sundays and public holidays.
- 7 The stacking height of containers stored should not exceed 8 units.
- 8 No stacking of containers within 5m of the periphery of the site.
- 9 No vehicles is allowed to queue back to public road or reverse onto/from the public road.
- 10 Maintenance of the existing on site drainage facilities and the submission of a condition record of the existing drainage facilities.
- 11 Maintenance of the existing boundary fence on site.

**Advisory Clauses**

- (a) prior planning permission should have been obtained before continuing the development on-site;
- (b) to resolve any land issues relating to the development with the concerned owner(s) of the application site;
- (c) to note that the Site might be resumed at any time during the planning approval period for implementation of government projects;
- (d) to note the comments of the District Lands Officer/Yuen Long, Lands Department (DLO/YL, LandsD) that the site comprises Old Schedule Agricultural Lots 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 private lots which are covered by Short Term Waivers (STWs) are listed below:

<b>Lot Nos. (in D.D. 124)</b>	<b>STW</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
95	2187	Workshop for Vehicle Dismantling and Storage of Scrap Metal
96	3714	Temporary Cargo Handling and Forwarding Facility (Logistics Centre)
155	3713	
156	3712	
119	1948	Storage and Repair of Container Boxes
154	1950	

The site is accessible to Tin Ha Road through both private lots and Government Land (GL). 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 STW holders will need to apply to his Office for modification of the STW conditions if there are any irregularities on site and the lot owner(s) of the lot without STW will need to apply to his Office for permit the structures to be erected or regularize any irregularities on site. Such application(s) will be considered by LandsD acting in the capacity of the landlord or lessor at its sole discretion and there is no guarantee that such applications 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 LandsD;

- (e) to note the comments of the Assistant Commissioner for Transport/New Territories, Transport Department (AC for T/NT, TD) that sufficient manoeuvring space shall be provided within the site. The local track leading to the site is not under TD's purview. The applicant shall obtain consent of the owners/managing departments of the local track for using it as the vehicular access to the site;
- (f) to note the comments of the Chief Highway Engineer/New Territories West, Highways Department (CHE/NTW, HyD) that the access arrangement should be commented by TD. Adequate drainage measures should be provided at the site access to prevent surface water flowing from the site to nearby public roads and drains. HyD shall not be responsible for the maintenance of any access connecting the site and Tin Ha Road;

- (g) to follow the relevant mitigation measures and requirements in the latest 'Code of Practice on Handling Environmental Aspects of Open Storage and Temporary Uses' issued by the Environmental Protection Department;
- (h) to note the comments of the Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories West, Buildings Department (CBS/NTW, BD) that if the existing structures (not being a New Territories Exempted House) are erected on leased land without approval of the BD, they are unauthorized building works (UBW) under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) and should not be designated for any approved use under the application. For UBW erected on leased land, enforcement action may be taken by the 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. Before any new building works (including containers/open sheds as temporary buildings and land filling) are to be carried out on the site, prior approval and consent of the BA should be obtained, otherwise they are UBW. An Authorized Person (AP) should be appointed as the coordinator for the proposed building works in accordance with 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 respectively. If the site does not abut on a specified street of not less than 4.5m wide, its permitted development intensity shall be determined under Regulation 19(3) of the Building (Planning) Regulations at the building plan submission stage;
- (i) to note the comments of the Director of Fire Services (D of FS) 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 plans should be drawn to scale and depicted with dimensions and nature of occupancy. The location of where the proposed FSIs 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 BO (Cap. 123), detailed fire safety requirements will be formulated upon receipt of formal submission of general building plans; and
- (j) to note the comments of the Project Manager (New Territories West), Civil Engineering and Development Department (PM/NTW, CEDD) that the Site falls within the boundary of HSK NDA. According to the Planning and Engineering Study (P&E Study) for the HSK NDA, to ensure timely and orderly implementation, the development of HSK NDA and relevant site formation and infrastructure works would be implemented in five stages, viz. Advance Works and Stage 1 to Stage 4. The concerned lot(s) falls within a site under Stage 3 Works stages. While the detailed implementation programme for the project is still being formulated, based on the P&E Study, it is envisaged that clearance of the Site in question will not be arranged before the first population intake of the HSK NDA expected in 2024.