

Don't overcharge tenants for water

Amendments to the Waterworks Regulations (Cap.102A) regarding landlords recovering water charges from their tenants

The Waterworks (Waterworks Regulations) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 has come into force on 14 May 2021. The amended Regulation 47 of the Waterworks Regulations (Regulation 47) only allows a Water Supplies Department's (WSD's) registered consumer (usually the landlords) to recover from occupants of the premises (usually the tenants) **the water charge paid to the WSD**. If the recovered amount by the landlord exceeds the water charge paid to the WSD without the written permission of the Water Authority, the landlord contravenes Regulation 47.

The above amended Regulation 47 is also applicable to sub-divided units. Therefore, the total amount of water charges recovered by the landlords of the sub-divided units from their tenants cannot exceed the water charge paid to the WSD.

Special items to note for landlords and tenants of sub-divided units regarding the amended Regulation 47

Landlords and tenants of sub-divided units should discuss and agree on a suitable and acceptable apportionment for recovery of water charges.

Landlords of sub-divided units should provide their tenants with receipts for water charge transactions. Landlords and tenants should also properly keep the receipts to avoid disputes in future.

Alternatively, landlords or tenants of sub-divided units may consider applying to the WSD for the installation of separate water meters for sub-divided units to enable tenants to pay water charges based on their water consumptions.

Penalty of contravention

Any person who overcharges for water shall be guilty of an offence and liable to **a maximum fine of HK\$10,000**.

Reporting suspected cases

If the landlord is suspected to overcharge the tenants for water, please report to:

Hotline: 2824 5000

Choose language, then press 7

WhatsApp: 5665 5517

Email: wsdinfo@wsd.gov.hk

The particulars of the person reporting the case will be kept strictly confidential.

For more information about the concerned issue, please visit the website of the Water Supplies Department: <https://www.wsd.gov.hk/en/redirect/overcharge>

Water Supplies Department

Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Customer Telephone Enquiry Hotline: 2824 5000

Email: wsdinfo@wsd.gov.hk

Web Site Address: www.wsd.gov.hk

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