

**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 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 Application covering the Site

Approved Application

	Application No.	Proposed Use(s)	Date of Consideration (RNTPC/TPB)	Approval Conditions
1	A/YL-SK/71	Temporary Open Storage of Building Materials for a period of 12 months	5.2.1999	(1), (2), (3)

Approval Conditions

1. Submission and implementation of landscaping proposals, including a tree preservation scheme.
2. Provision of drainage facilities.
3. Reinstatement of the Site after the expiry of the planning approval.



Similar application within the same "I(D)" zone on the Shek Kong OZP

Approved Application

	Application No.	Proposed Use(s)	Date of Consideration (RNTPC/TPB)	Approval Conditions
1	A/YL-SK/246	Proposed Temporary Logistics Centre for a period of 3 years	17.8.2018	(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11)

Approval Conditions

1. Restriction on operation hours.
2. No operation on Sundays and public holidays.
3. No medium or heavy goods vehicles exceeding 5.5 tonnes including container tractors/trailers, as defined in the Road Traffic Ordinance, are allowed to be parked on or enter/exit the Site at any time.
4. No dismantling, maintenance, repairing, cleansing, paint spraying or other workshop activities shall be carried out on the Site at any time.
5. No queuing back of vehicles to public road from the Site is allowed at any time.
6. Submission of a revised drainage proposal.
7. Implementation and maintenance of drainage facilities on the Site at all times.
8. Submission of fire service installations (FSIs) proposal and provision of FSIs.
9. Revocation of the planning approval if the planning conditions are not complied with during the planning approval period or by specified date.
10. Reinstatement of the Site after the expiry of the planning approval.
11. No reversing of vehicles into or out from the Site is allowed at any time during the planning approval period.



Advisory Clauses

- (a) to resolve any land issues relating to the temporary use with the concerned owner(s) of the Site;
- (b) note DLO/YL, LandsD's comments 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 Site is accessible from 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 structure shall not exceed the relevant airfield height limit within SKAHRA. Should planning approval be given to the application, the lot owner(s) will need to apply to his office to permit the structures to be erected or regularize any irregularities on site, if any. Besides, given the proposed use is temporary in nature, only application for regularization or erection of temporary structure(s) will be considered. No construction of New Territories Exempted Building(s) will be considered or allowed. Application for any of the above will be considered by his department 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 his department;
- (c) 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 his department. The land status of the local access road should be checked with the LandsD. Moreover, relevant management and maintenance responsibilities of the local access road should be clarified with the relevant lands and maintenance authorities accordingly;
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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;
- (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 BO (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 comment that If the existing structures (not being a New Territories Exempted House) are erected on leased land without the approval of BD, they are unauthorized building works (UBW) under the BO and should not be designated for any proposed 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) are to be carried out on the Site, prior approval and consent of the BD should be obtained. Otherwise, they are Unauthorized Building Works (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 B(P)R at the building plan submission stage.