

**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 1,000m² 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.

Previous Application covering the Site

Approved Application

	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Zoning(s) and OZP at the time of consideration</u>	<u>Proposed Use(s)/Development(s)</u>	<u>Date of Consideration (RNTPC)</u>	<u>Approval Conditions</u>
1.	A/YL-HT/1054	“CDA” on approved HT OZP No. S/YL-HT/10	Proposed Temporary Vehicle Service Centre (3 Years)	11.11.2016 (revoked on 11.4.2019)	1 to 9

Approval Conditions:

- 1 The submission and implementation of landscaping and/or tree preservation proposals, and/or provision of replacement planting and/or the replacement of dead trees.
- 2 The submission drainage proposals/provision of drainage facilities/flood mitigation measures and stormwater drainage facilities on-site and/or submission of a condition record of the existing drainage facilities.
- 3 Reinstatement clause.
- 4 Revocation clauses.
- 5 No night-time operation and/or no operation on Sundays and public holidays.
- 6 Submission and provision of run-in/out proposal
- 7 Provision of fencing
- 8 No vehicle spraying activities is allowed on the site at any time
- 9 No vehicle queuing back to public road and reverse onto/from the public road is allowed

**Appendix V of RNTPC
Paper No. A/HSK/172**

Advisory Clauses

- (a) prior planning permission should have been obtained before continuing the development on the Site;
- (b) to resolve any land issues relating to the development with the concerned owner(s) of the Site;
- (c) to note that the Site might be resumed at any time during the planning approval period for implementation of government projects;
- (d) shorter compliance period is imposed in order to monitor the progress of compliance with approval conditions. Should the applicant fail to comply with any of the approval conditions again resulting in the revocation of planning permission, sympathetic consideration may not be given to any further applications;
- (e) to note the comments of the District Lands Officer/Yuen Long, Lands Department (DLO/YL, LandsD) 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 private land of the following lots are covered by Short Term Waivers (STWs):

<u>Lot No. in D.D.124</u>	<u>STW No.</u>	<u>Purposes</u>
3193 3139, 3141, 3143	4129	Temporary Vehicle Service Centre
3140	4823	

- The STW holders will need to apply to his Office for modification of the STW conditions where appropriate. The owner(s) of lot without STW will need to apply to this office to permit the structures to be erected or regularize any irregularity 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(s) for any of the above will be considered by the LandsD acting in the capacity of the landlord or lessor at its sole discretion and there is no guarantee that such application(s) 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; and
 - the Site is accessible to Lau Fau Shan Road through Government Land. His office provides no maintenance works to the GL involved and does not guarantee any right-of-way to the Site;
- (f) to note the comments of the Assistant Commissioner for Transport/New Territories, Transport Department (AC for T/NT, TD) that sufficient manoeuvring spaces shall be provided within the Site. No vehicles are allowed to queue back to public roads or reverse onto/from public roads;

- (g) to note the comments of the Chief Highway Engineer/New Territories West, Highways Department (CHE/NTW, HyD) that if the proposed run-in is agreed by TD, the applicant should provide the run in/out at Lau Fau Shan Road in accordance with the latest version of Highways Standard Drawing No. H1113 and H1114, or H5133, H5134 and H5135, whichever set is appropriate to match with the existing adjacent pavement. Adequate drainage measures should be provided at the site access to prevent surface water flowing from the Site to nearby public roads/drain. His department shall not be responsible for maintenance of any access connecting the Site and Lau Fau Shan Road;
- (h) to follow the latest 'Code of Practice on Handling Environmental Aspects of Temporary Uses and Open Storage Sites' issued by the Director of Environmental Protection to minimize any potential environmental nuisance;
- (i) to note the comments of the Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories West, Buildings Department (CBS/NTW, BD) that there is no record of approval by the Building Authority (BA) for the existing structures at the Site. If the existing structures (not being a New Territories Exempted House) are erected on leased land without the approval of the Buildings Department (BD), they are unauthorized building works (UBW) under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) and should not be designated for any proposed use under the application. Before any new building works (including containers/open sheds as temporary buildings, demolition and land filing) are to be carried out on the application site, the prior approval and consent of the BD should be obtained, otherwise they are UBW. An Authorized Person should be appointed as the coordinator for the proposed building works in accordance with the BO. 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. 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 4.5m wide, its permitted development intensity shall be determined under Regulation 19(3) of the B(P)R at the building plan submission stage;
- (j) to note the comments of the Director of Fire Services (D of FS) that in consideration of the design/nature of the structures, fire service installations (FSIs) are anticipated to be required. Therefore, the applicant should submit relevant layout plans incorporated with the proposed FSIs to him 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. If the proposed structure(s) is required to comply with the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) or relevant licensing requirements, detailed fire service requirements will be formulated upon receipt of formal submission of general building plans; and
- (k) to note the comments of the Project Manager (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department (PM/NTW, CEDD) that the Site falls within the boundary of the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (HSK NDA). According to the Planning and Engineering Study (P&E Study) for the HSK NDA and the latest plan, 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 lot(s) concerned fall within sites under Stages 3

Works Stage and Stage 4 Works Stage in the latest programme of HSK NDA. While the detailed implementation programme for the project is still being formulated, it is envisaged that clearance of the Site will not be arranged before the first population intake of the HSK NDA expected in 2024.