

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

1. On 27.3.2020, 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. 13F) 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 (irrespective of whether the application is submitted by the applicant of previous approval or a different applicant). Sympathetic consideration may be given if genuine efforts have been demonstrated in compliance with approval conditions of the previous planning applications and relevant technical assessments/proposals have been included in the fresh applications, if required, 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 (irrespective of whether the application is submitted by the applicant of previous approval or a different applicant), and subject to no adverse departmental comments and local objections, sympathetic consideration may be given if genuine efforts have been demonstrated in compliance with approval conditions of the previous planning applications and relevant technical assessments/proposals have been included in the fresh applications, if required, 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 summarised as follows:
- (a) the use of sites of less than 1,000 m² each for open storage uses and 2,000 m² each for port back-up uses in rural areas is generally not encouraged, other than sites located in major road 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, minimising 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, 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 Application Site

Approved Application

	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Proposed Development</u>	<u>Date of Consideration (RNTPC)</u>	<u>Approval Conditions</u>
1	A/YL-TYST/88	Proposed Asphalt Concrete Batching Plant	17.3.2000	(1), (2), (3), (4)

Approval Conditions:

- (a) The submission and implementation of landscaping proposals to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning or of the Town Planning Board (the Board).
- (b) The provision of drainage facilities to the satisfaction of the Director of Drainage Services or of the Board.
- (c) The setting back of the eastern side of the application site upon future implementation of the proposed Road L12 to the satisfaction of the Director of Territory Development or of the Board.
- (d) The permission shall cease to have effect on 17.3.2003 unless prior to the said date either the development hereby permitted is commenced or the permission is renewed.

Similar Application within the Subject “I(D)” Zone on the OZP

Approved Application

	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Proposed Use</u>	<u>Date of Consideration (RNTPC)</u>	<u>Approval Conditions</u>
1	A/YL-TYST/913	Temporary Logistics Centre for a Period of 3 Years	16.11.2018	(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11)

Approval Conditions

- (1) No night-time operation and/or no operation on Sundays and public holidays.
- (2) A “SLOW” road marking shall be painted on Tong Yan San Tsuen Road.
- (3) A lookout man at the site access shall be provided when vehicles leave the Site.
- (4) No vehicles other than medium/heavy goods vehicles, as defined in the Road Traffic Ordinance are allowed to be parked/stored on or enter/exit the Site.
- (5) No vehicle is allowed to queue back to or reverse onto/from public road.
- (6) Maintenance of boundary fence on the Site.
- (7) Maintenance of existing trees and landscape planting on the Site.
- (8) Implementation of the accepted drainage proposal.
- (9) Maintenance of implemented drainage facilities on the Site.
- (10) Implementation of the accepted fire service installations proposal.
- (11) Revocation of planning approval if conditions not complied with by a given date/at any time during the approval period.

Advisory clauses

- (a) to resolve any land issues relating to the development with the concerned owner(s) of the application site (the Site);
- (b) to note the comments of the District Lands Officer/Yuen Long, Lands Department (DLO/YL, LandsD) that the Site comprises New Grant Lots which shall not be used for any purpose other than as an orchard. The lot owner(s) will need to apply to her office to permit the structures to be erected or regularise any irregularities on site, if any. Besides, given the proposed use is temporary in nature, only application for regularisation or erection of temporary structure(s) will be considered. Applications for any of the above will be considered by her department acting in the capacity of the landlord or lessor at its sole discretion and there is no guarantee that such application will be approved. If such application is approved, it will be subject to such terms and conditions, including among others the payment of rent or fee, as may be imposed by her department;
- (c) to note the comments of the Commissioner for Transport that the land status of the access road/path/track leading to the Site from Tong Yan San Tsuen Road shall be checked with the lands authority. The management and maintenance responsibilities of the access road/path/track should be clarified and consulted with the relevant management and maintenance authorities accordingly. Sufficient space within the Site should be provided for manoeuvring of vehicles. No parking of vehicles on public road are allowed;
- (d) to note the comments of the Chief Highway Engineer/New Territories West, Highways Department that adequate drainage measures should be provided at the site access to prevent surface water flowing from the Site to the nearby public roads and drains. His department shall not be responsible for the maintenance of any access connecting the Site and Tong Yan San Tsuen Road;
- (e) to note the comments of the Director of Environmental Protection that relevant mitigation measures and requirements in the latest “Code of Practice on Handling the Environmental Aspects of Temporary Uses and Open Storage Sites” issued by the Environmental Protection Department should be followed to minimise any potential environmental nuisances on the surrounding areas;
- (f) to note the comments of the Chief Engineer/Mainland North, Drainage Services Department on the submitted drainage proposal that the invert levels of the proposed catchpits should be shown on the drainage plan for reference. The location and details (i.e. cross section) of the proposed hoarding/peripheral wall, if any, should be shown on the proposed drainage plan. Overland flow from adjacent areas should not be obstructed. Sand trap or provision alike should be provided before the collected runoff is discharged to the public drainage facilities. The development should neither obstruct overland flow nor adversely affect existing natural streams, village drains, ditches and the adjacent areas, etc. DLO/YL, LandsD should be consulted and consent from the relevant owners should be sought for any drainage works to be carried out outside your lot boundary before commencement of the drainage works. Form HBP1 should be submitted to his Division for application of technical audit for any proposed connection to his department’s drainage facilities;
- (g) to note the comments of the Director of Fire Services that in consideration of the design/nature of the proposal, fire service installations (FSIs) are anticipated to be required. Relevant layout plans incorporated with the proposed FSIs should be submitted 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 also be clearly marked on the layout plans. If the proposed structure(s) is required to comply with the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123), detailed fire service requirements will be formulated upon receipt of formal submission of general building plans;

- (h) to note the comments of the Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories West, Buildings Department (BD) that if the existing structures (not being a New Territories Exempted House) are erected on leased land without approval of the Building Authority (BA), they are unauthorised 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 BD to effect their removal in accordance with the prevailing 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, demolition 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 Authorised Person should be appointed as the co-ordinator 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 (B(P)R) respectively. The Site does not abut on a specified street of not less than 4.5m wide and its permitted development intensity shall be determined under Regulation 19(3) of the B(P)R at the building plan submission stage; and
- (i) to note the comments of the Project Manager (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department that the Site falls within the boundary of Yuen Long South (YLS) development – Stage 2 Phase 2. The land resumption and clearance programme of the project is subject to Executive Council’s authorisation on land resumption and Finance Committee’s funding approval of the project. Land clearance operation is tentatively targeted to commence in 2024. Extension of the planning permission may not be supported in future and no substantial works shall be carried out in view of the planned YLS development – Stage 2 Phase 2.