Simple Guide to “Dangerous Hillside Orders”
This Simple Guide aims to tell private slope owners in simple terms what to do when they receive a Dangerous Hillside (DH) Order, and provides a step by step approach to assist them in fulfilling the requirements of the DH Order promptly and effectively.

Introduction

When a private slope or retaining wall (hereinafter collectively referred to as a slope) is found to be dangerous or liable to become dangerous, the Buildings Department will serve a DH order to require the slope owner(s) (see Note 1) to investigate and if necessary rectify the slope. DH orders are usually issued as a result of dangerous or potentially dangerous situations found in the following circumstances:

- Landslides or slopes which exhibit significant signs of distress.

Step by Step

1. Appointment of Authorized Persons (AP) / Registered Geotechnical Engineer (RGE)

Upon receipt of a DH Order, slope owners (Note 1) should:
- Convene an owners’ meeting
- Agree and review the scope and programme of the proposed works in accordance with the time frames stipulated in the DH Order
- Invite fee proposals from AP / RGE
- Assess the fee proposals
- Select and appoint a suitable AP / RGE (see also P.6)

In the course of the investigation by the AP / RGE, slope owners should participate in selecting suitable contractors for carrying out:
- Topographical survey
- Ground investigation works
- Laboratory testing

Note 1: Slope owners, in the context of the Guide, are owners of the slope or the private party(ies) responsible for main tenance of the slope.
Step by Step

2. Slope Stability Assessment

The RGE should assess the geotechnical conditions of the slope whether they meet the current safety standards.

Meet the current safety standards

- The AP should submit the report to the Buildings Department (BD) for discharge of the DH Order. Also see Note 2.

Do not meet the current safety standards

- The RGE prepares slope works proposals. Slope owners should participate and give their views on the proposals. (see also P.7)

The RGE should then design the slope work. The AP should submit the design proposal to BD for approval.

3. Upgrading Works

- After obtaining BD's approval of the slope works proposal, the AP/RGE should prepare and invite tenders for construction on behalf of the owners.
- Owners should then select a suitable contractor for the works.

ensure that they are carried out in accordance with the approved proposal, and the required specifications and workmanship.

The progress of construction. Also see Note 2.

(End)

The AP/RGE should draw up a contingency plan and monitor the stability of the slope during the course of investigation and construction. If the slope shows any signs of instability, the AP / RGE should arrange to carry out emergency repair immediately and advise residents and others of any safety precautions. Slope owners should report any observations of slope movements to the AP / RGE.

Note 2: Before discharge of the DH Order, the RGE should prepare a Maintenance Manual for the slope owners to aid them in carrying out the necessary future slope maintenance works.
Owners should engage the following professionals/party to fulfill the requirements of the DH Order:

**Authorized Person**
To coordinate works as required under the Buildings Ordinance.
A list of Authorized Persons is available for viewing at the Building Department (BD) and Local District Offices or downloading from the BD Website (http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/inform/index.html).

**Registered Geotechnical Engineer**
To provide geotechnical consultancy service.
A list of Registered Geotechnical Engineers can be obtained from the BD or downloaded from the BD Website (http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/inform/index.html).

**Registered Specialist Contractor**
To carry out topographic survey, ground investigation, laboratory testing and slope works.
A list of Registered Specialist Contractors can be obtained from the BD or downloaded from the BD Website (http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/inform/index.html).

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**Notes for Engagement of AP/RGE**

Selection of the AP/RGE should be made objectively according to the quality of service expected, not solely on the costs alone. The following points should be considered in the selection process.

- **Q1:** Does the AP/RGE understand the requirements of the DH Order?
- **Q2:** Does the AP/RGE have the required manpower and resources for the work?
- **Q3:** Has the AP/RGE had previous experience and performed similar jobs in Hong Kong?
- **Q4:** Can you draw reference/experience from other owners?
- **Q5:** What are AP/RGE’s opinions and views on the future slope works?
The Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) has set up a Community Advisory Unit (CAU) to provide assistance and advice to private slope owners. Private slope owners who have received a DH Order are welcome to contact CAU at telephone no. 2760 5800 or by email: cau@cedd.gov.hk.

An Integrated Building Maintenance Assistance Scheme has been set up to provide financial assistance to private slope owners in carrying out slope repair or slope maintenance works. For further information or enquiry, please call telephone no. 3188 1188 or CAU.

GEO has uploaded the records of 60,000 man-made slopes in Hong Kong onto the Hong Kong Slope Safety Website (http://hkss.cedd.gov.hk).

The Lands Department has published the maintenance responsibility of slopes on their Website (http://www.slope.landsd.gov.hk/smis).

Owners are welcome to browse these Websites to obtain information on their slopes.