CHAPTER 2
CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

2.1 Classification of Homes

Residential facilities are provided for aged people who, for personal, social, health or other reasons, can no longer live alone or with their families. According to the level of care and assistance required by the residents and the type prescribed for the purpose of Section 8(4)(c) of the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance, a residential care home for the elderly may be classified as:

(a) a care-and-attention home; or
(b) an aged home; or
(c) a self-care hostel.

2.2 Definition of Types of Homes

Under Section 3 of the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation:

(a) A ‘care-and-attention home’ means

an establishment providing residential care, supervision and guidance for persons who have attained the age of 60 years and who are generally weak in health and are suffering from a functional disability to the extent that they require personal care and attention in the course of daily living activities but do not require a high degree of professional medical or nursing care.

(b) An ‘aged home’ means

an establishment providing residential care, supervision and guidance for persons who have attained the age of 60 years and who are capable of observing personal hygiene but have a degree of difficulty in performing household duties related to cleaning, cooking, laundering, shopping and other domestic tasks.

(c) A ‘self-care hostel’ means

an establishment providing residential care, supervision and guidance for persons who have attained the age of 60 years and who are capable of observing personal hygiene and performing household duties related to cleaning, cooking, laundering, shopping and other domestic tasks.
2.3 Classification of Mixed Homes

2.3.1 Some residential care homes for the elderly provide more than one class of care for their residents. For example, some aged homes are established with care-and-attention units. Likewise, some aged homes also provide self-care hostel places.

2.3.2 In classifying a mixed home (namely, homes with care-and-attention cum aged home places, homes with care-and-attention cum self-care places, homes with aged home cum self-care places, homes with care-and-attention cum aged home cum self-care places), the “majority rule” will apply. For example, a home with care-and-attention cum aged home places with over 50% of its residents being in need of care-and-attention care is classified as a care-and-attention home. In case of equal distribution of places in the two sections, e.g. 50% care-and-attention places and 50% aged home places, the home will be classified as the one that requires a higher level of care (i.e. a care-and-attention home in this case). This is to ensure that the well-being of the residents are protected.

2.3.3 In a home with three types of care (namely, care-and-attention care, aged home care and hostel care), a modified majority rule will apply. Such a home will only be classified as either a care-and-attention home or aged home, it would not be appropriate to classify such a home as a self-care hostel, irrespective of the number of self-care places. This is to ensure that elderly residents receive a proper level of care. In classifying such a home, the number of aged home places in the home will first be added to the number of self-care places. This total will then be compared with the number of care-and-attention places. The home will be classified as either a care-and-attention home or an aged home according to the majority rule.