SUMMARY

Since Town Councils took over the maintenance and management of HDB estates, the standards of conservancy in public housing estates have come under scrutiny. This dissertation aims to evaluate the past and present systems of conservancy management under the HDB and Town Councils respectively. It will also review conservancy systems in other countries with a view to suggest improvements to local practices.

Findings from this study reveal that the present CIDB scheme of registering conservancy contractors is too liberal and does not impose sufficient requirements to ensure that the contractor is suitably equipped for the nature of conservancy works. Current legislation appear to be inadequate in meeting the requirements of the industry. There is also a lack of recognised national cleaning standards. The industry also suffers from a poor image and a shortage of manpower.

It is recommended that the CIDB scheme of registering conservancy contractors be reviewed to increase the financial and personnel resource requirements of the firm. A review of current legislation relating to the conservancy trade should be undertaken to more adequately meet the demands of the industry. National cleaning standards should be drafted and an institute set up to steer the path to greater professionalism and status for the profession. Town Councils should also re-look at the way contracts are traditionally awarded and implement incentives for contractors to mechanise and train staff. Lastly, the industry itself would have to muster cooperation to form a national cleaning association to act as a sounding board for the industry.