

Flexible and Pragmatic Approach in Connection with the Enforcement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, Cap.572, Laws of Hong Kong

New Measures

The FSD have launched the improvised fire hydrant and hose reel system (Phase three) to assist owners of target buildings of seven storeys or above **or** over 20 metres in height in complying with the fire safety improvement requirements.

At present, a fire hydrant and hose reel system is required for target buildings of seven storeys or above or over 20 metres in height under the Ordinance. It has been a requirement since 2014 that a fire hydrant and hose reel system shall be equipped with a supply tank of 9,000 litres effective capacity only. However, some building owners still encounter difficulties in installing the FS water tank owing to spatial/structural constraints.

In the light of this, the FSD has conducted a risk assessment study with a view to enforcing the Ordinance in a flexible and pragmatic way. The findings are that for target buildings of seven storeys or above **or** over 20 metres in height with one of the major facades accessible by fire appliances via an emergency vehicular access, provided that there is street fire hydrant installed within 50m from the target building, the effective capacity of the supply tank of the fire hydrant and hose reel system can be reduced from 9,000 litres to 4,500 litres.

For the purpose of facilitating building owners to upgrade the fire safety standard of their buildings, the FSD hitherto has been adopting flexible and pragmatic approach on imposing fire safety requirements. After discussion with the Water Supplies Department (WSD), the measure has been agreed by the WSD in principle to have fire services water connection to the fresh water supply system and the fresh water roof tank of all target buildings under the enforcement of the Ordinance. Suitable target buildings of 7 storeys or above **or** over 20 metres in height would be selected for Pilot scheme.

Both new initiatives have taken effect on 27 September 2017.

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