

Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 2nd FSSAG Meeting (held on 23.9.2004)

1. Fire Protection in Strong Rooms and Safe Deposit Vaults of Banks

- 1.1 Under the current CoP for minimum FSI and equipment, strong rooms or safe deposit vaults located in basements were not subject to the requirement of fire detection systems or sprinkler systems. To step up fire safety in these areas, FSD recommended that the requirement of fire detection system would be extended to basements not exceeding 230 m², and for area exceeding 230 m², either the fire detection system or the sprinkler system should be installed. Members were invited to submit their comments to FSD within one month.
- 1.2 On the request of The Hong Kong Association of Banks (HKAB), FSD would consider the suitability of adopting heat detectors for fire detection systems to be installed in strong rooms / safe deposit vaults.

2. Sub-Working Group on Inspection Procedures for Staircase Pressurization System

A Sub-working Group was reviewing the inspection procedures for staircase pressurization system. A summary of recommended amendments to BS5588: Part 4: 1998 for local application to Inspection Procedures for Staircase Pressurization System would be distributed to members in due course.

3. Proposed Generic Design for Fuel Oil System for Upper Floor Generators

A meeting between the HKIE and the Dangerous Goods Division of FSD on Generic Design for Fuel Oil System for Upper Floor Generators would be held in due course.

4. Procedures for Proper Maintenance of Portable Fire Extinguishers

Since there were different classifications on the types of fire with different standards and pictograms for fire extinguishers adopted internationally, members agreed that local standardization was not suitable at this stage. The CoP would be updated and a pamphlet on the selection of fire extinguishers would be prepared for the public in due course.

5. Guidelines on VAC Control Systems

FSD Circular Letter on VAC control systems for AHU Rooms would be prepared in due course.

6. Checklist for Fire Detection System Designed & Installed to LPC Rules for Automatic Fire Detection & Alarm Installation

FSD Circular Letter on Checklist for Fire Detection System Designed & Installed to LPC Rules for Automatic Fire Detection & Alarm Installation was uploaded to the website.

7. Fire Protection Requirements in Construction Sites

The HKCA, HKIA, Arch SD & HD all agreed to the provision of fire hydrant systems in high rise building / developments under construction. FSD would hold further discussion with the Real Estates Development Association in due course.

8. Installation of Standard Spreader System for Fire Service Pumps

FSD Circular Letter on Installation of Standard Spreader System for Fire Service Pumps would be uploaded to the website in due course.

9. Proposed New Arrangement for the Submission of Fire Service Installation Drawings for New Developments

New arrangement for the submission of Fire Service Installation Drawings for New Developments were agreed by members and would apply to all new developments handled by the New Projects Division.

FSD Circular Letter detailing the procedures and guidelines would be issued in due course. The arrangement for submission of FSI drawings to the Railway Development Strategy Division and the Theme Park Projects Division of FSD would remain unchanged where detailed FSI drawings should be forwarded to the relevant processing office as early as possible together with the submission of FSI/314.

10. CoP for Minimum FSI and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment

A disk on the proposed amendments to the existing CoP was distributed for all members' comments. Members were invited to submit their comments to FSD within one month..

11. Full Load Test for Emergency Generators

FSD clarified that 'FULL LOAD' test for Emergency Generators should be performed annually while monthly routine maintenance should be run on "LOAD" conditions in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer or as recommended by BS5839, which required the generator to be loaded to at least 50% of the full load capacity.

12. Connection of Non-FSI Electrical Load to Emergency Generators

12.1 FSD clarified that previously agreed principles continued to be adopted and reminded members that special system arrangement would require prior approval from FSD on individual project basis.

12.2 As special remarks in the FS Notes regarding non-standard installation application could cause unnecessary delay to the GBP approval process, FSD suggested that A/Ps could submit the application to New Projects Division of FSD separately.

12.3 FSD would clarify on (i) whether lifts were considered as FSI as most of them were supplied by the emergency generator for lift homing control; and (ii) whether emergency generator for FSI and non-FSI should be housed in separate plant rooms in due course.

13. Graphical Symbol Exit Signs to be Used in Hong Kong

In view of the international trend of moving from words design towards graphical symbols design for exit signs, the Chairman requested all members to review the subject and forward their comments, if any, to the Secretary within two months.

- End -