

Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 34th FSSAG Meeting held on 25 September 2012

1. Review of PPA 104 (Issued under cover of FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2006)

The 2nd and 3rd Sub-working Group meetings were held on 9.8.2012 and 11.9.2012 respectively. Various standards and requirements were being studied by members and the PPA/104 & PPA/104(A) (5th Revision) were being prepared. Different requirements were noted amongst the current FSCoP (2012 edition), PPA/104 & PPA/104(A) and the standards quoted. Regarding the new standards/arrangements for emergency lighting system, the issue had been discussed in detail and the meeting concluded that all issue should be addressed to the Sub-working Group.

2. Protection of Electrical Duct, Riser Duct/Shaft, etc by Fixed Installations

Since the issue had been thoroughly explained in the last meeting and no further clarification was proposed. Members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

3. Pressure Requirement at Remote Sprinkler Head

As no further action was required for this item, members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

4. Clarification of Fire Alarm and Detection System BS 5839-1:2002+A2:2008

Members discussed and exchanged views on the issue. As members needed more time to go through the proposal presented by FSICA in the meeting and to search for the related information, the meeting agreed that this item would continue for discussion in the next meeting.

5. Provision of Indication Label for Manual Actuation Switch

Members discussed the proposal prepared by FSICA in detail and the response was supportive in general. As the proposed “evacuation switch” might involved the frontline operational staff of FSD, the proposal would therefore require an internal study prior to making a decision.

6. Clarification of the provision of fire hydrants in accordance to the CoP (2012)

Regarding the provision and location of fire hydrant, members discussed the issue in detail and it was concluded that:

- (i) The requirement for the provision of fire hydrant at street level of a building remained unchanged.
- (ii) Situation deviated from FSCoP(2012) would be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- (iii) For the design of public housing, representative of Housing Department should approach New Project Division of FSD directly.

As no further action was required for this item, members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

7. Clarification of the new criteria if the fire engineering approach is adopted for the deletion of a drencher system on the refuge floor

Members were given to understand that the provision of refuge floor was stipulated in the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Building 2011 and with reference to FSCoP (2012 edition) Part IV paragraph 4.40, “an external drencher system with an independent water supply should be provided to protect all external wall openings” of refuge floor. As stated in FSCoP Part 1 paragraph 1.3, fire engineering approach might be accepted on a case by case basis as an alternative to the prescriptive provisions provided that the level of safety was not inferior to the prescriptive requirements. Application for exemption of drencher system on refuge floor would be considered with the proper formulation of fire engineering approach on the merit of individual case.

8. Operation procedure for AVA system

Members were given to understand that there was no mandatory vetting of the AVA voice message in the plan processing stage. However, in case of pre-submission enquiry or when the prerecorded voice message was included in a fire engineering report, New Projects Division of FSD might comment on the content of the message as appropriate to the circumstances of application.

9. Emergency Lighting for Small Area

Members were given to understand that for general cases, the original requirements of BS 5266-1:2011 should be followed as there was no foreseeable technical difficulty in complying so. In case of licensing application, PPA/104(A) might be applied. The meeting concluded that the issue would require further discussion in the Sub-working Group meeting.

10. Fail Safe Provision of Control Panel (AFA Panel) for VAC Shut Down

Members were given to understand that there was no current requirement in the FSCoP for failsafe provision for V/AC control panel. According to the report of inspectorates, such requirement had not been brought up to the AP/FSCI in compliance inspection. Hence failsafe of the V/AC control panel to shut down the ventilation air conditioning system did not have a firm ground in the FSCoP. However, FSIC should ensure that the power supply for the V/AC control panel to which essential supply should be provided according to the requirement of the FSCoP. Under the circumstances, the suggested fail safe provision of control panel for VAC shut down was considered not required. As no further action was required for this item, members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

11. Fail Safe Provision of Control Panel for Smoke Extraction System and Staircase Pressurization System

Members were given to understand that the situation was the same as paragraph 10 above and hence the proposal was considered not required. As no further action was required for this item, members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.