

Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 36th FSSAG Meeting held on 23 April 2013

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

The 6th Sub-working Group meeting was held on 18.1.2013. The 2nd draft of PPA/104 & PPA/104(A) (5th Revision) were completed in January, 2013. Comments and suggestions from members were discussed in the 6th Sub-working Group meeting. Members of the FSSAG were requested to comment on the draft of PPA/104 & PPA/104(A) (5th Revision) by end May 2013.

2. Provision of Indication Label for Manual Evacuation Switch

Members discussed and exchanged views on the revised design of the indication label for manual evacuation switch prepared by FSICA. The meeting concluded that FSICA would finalize the revised design of the label, taking into account the comments made by members in the discussion, and prepare a plan showing the position of the evacuation switch on the conventional panel/addressable panel for further discussion in the next meeting.

3. Operation procedure for AVA system

As the proposal put up by FSICA was only a general guideline which was not an official requirement, whether it would be applicable to a particular area depended very much on the design of a building/complex. The meeting concluded that regarding the guideline on operating procedure for AVA system, advice from subject officer of New Projects Division of FSD could always be sought. If necessary, a proposal should be forwarded to the New Projects Division for their consideration from operational point of view and on a case by case basis. As a mechanism had been set up for this issue, Members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

4. Emergency Lighting for Small Area

Members had been informed in the last FSSAG meeting that it was suggested in the last Sub-working Group meeting that licensing premises of less than 16m² might be

provided with one emergency lighting and that such requirement was not applicable to non-licensing premises/buildings. Members were also reminded that new buildings should follow the requirements that laid down in BS 5266 Part 1. The meeting concluded that if no further comments on the issue received before the next FSSAG meeting, the item would be proposed for deletion in the next meeting.

5. Checklist for Fire Alarm and Detection System BS5839-1:2002+A2:2008

Members discussed and exchanged views on FSICA's proposed amendments to the checklist for fire detection and fire alarm system to BS 5839-1:2002+A2:2008. Due to the complexities and technicalities generated by this issue, the meeting agreed to set up a sub-working group to conduct an overall review on fire resisting cable requirements for fire service installations including the fire detection and fire alarm system. To tie in with the situation, this issue would be re-titled as "Review on fire resisting cable requirements for fire service installations" with effect from next meeting.

6. Local Application of Recycling Sprinkler Installation

FSICA had made enquiry to the FPA about the omission of recycling sprinkler system in BS EN 12845:2003. The reply from FPA was discussed in detail at the meeting. The meeting agreed that FSD would extract the requirements from the obsolete BS 5306-2 and then circulate to relevant trades for reference through FSD Circular Letter.

7. To clarify some interpretation of the clause of Provision of Audio/Visual Advisory System

The meeting agreed that all requirements laid down in the FSI Code should be closely observed and followed. For specific situation, FSD would consider it on a case by case basis. As no further comment had been received, Members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

8. Zoning of Operation of Manual Fire Alarms (By FSICA)

The issue was discussed in detail. Members were given to understand that the alarm zoning arrangement for sprinklered commercial/hotel buildings of 1 floor below and 2 floors above came under "Zoning of Operation of Manual Fire Alarm"

in FSD Circular Letter No. 4/96. As such, the zoning arrangement described in the CL clearly applied only to alarm sounding of MFA. Subsequent FSD Circular Letters 1/2002 and 1/2009 about the modified conditions for Fire Detection System stipulated that the alarm zoning in CL 4/96 was applicable. Furthermore, if there was a DTL requirement (e.g. due to reduced tank size), the alarm signal of Sprinkler System should connect to the Fire Detection System.

9. Cable inside Flexible/Surface Steel Conduit for Final Connection to FS Devices (By FSICA)

The meeting agreed that this item would be included for further discussion in the sub-working group meeting. (See item 5 above)

10. Maintenance and Services of Emergency Lighting (By FSICA)

Members discussed and exchanged views on the issue. Members were informed that since both the FSCoP 2005 and FSCoP 2012 had recommended the application of a more stringent monthly test for the emergency lighting supplied by central battery system, it was impractical to adopt the same test for the proprietary made self-contained emergency lights. The proposed testing method according to BS 5266-1 and BS EN 50172 for self-contained emergency lights was considered technically feasible and acceptable. For proprietary products, all wires and self-contained batteries should have been properly connected according to their specifications.

Members were also reminded that FS CoP (2012 Edition) was issued to provide additional requirements on top of the above mentioned standards for inspection, testing and maintenance of emergency lighting. It was also important to follow the requirements laid down in BS EN 50172 about keeping proper records including dates of the tests and test results in a logbook.