Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 39th FSSAG Meeting held on 21 January 2014

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

The draft FSD Circular Letter together with the draft of PPA/104 & PPA/104(A) (5th Revision) had been submitted to the FSD's Management for deliberation.

2. Provision of Indication Label for Manual Evacuation Switch

Comments from the three Operational Commands of FSD were received and they all supported the provision of evacuation switch. In sum, they opined that the "Evacuation Switch" should be installed at control panel and repeater panels if such panels were provided in the building/development for earliest warning by operational members.

3. Review on fire resisting cable requirements for fire service installations

The 4th and 5th Sub-working Group meetings were held on 5.11.2013 and 17.12.2013 respectively. Further discussions were made amongst members on the relevant standards related to fire resisting cables used in different types of fire service installations, the availability of different types of fire resisting cables in the market and the difficulties and problems encountered in different applications including the exemption conditions specified in Appendix 8 of the FSD CoP.

4. Review of Case Drawings 12/1 to 12/5 for V/AC Control Systems under FSD Circular Letter No. 2/2005

As no comments were received from Members of the FSSAG, the draft document would be submitted to the FSD's Management for deliberation.

5. To clarify the incorporation of exit signs in Audio/Visual Advisory System (AVAS) in area with transient occupancy

It had been clarified in the last meeting about the arrangement of flashing exit sign and conventional exit sign of the AVAS. As no further enquiries were made in the

meeting, Members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

6. Revised Requirements for Fire Hydrant/Hose Reel System

The revised requirements for Fire Hydrant/Hose Reel stipulated in FSD Circular Letters No. 2/2013 had been explained in detail during the last meeting. As no further enquiries were made in the meeting, Members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

7. Revised Fire Service Requirement for Signboards

The revised Fire Service requirements for Signboards had been explained in detail during the last meeting and no further enquiry/comment had been received. As such, Members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

8. Maintenance Inspection for Fire Detection Systems (DFS)

Members were briefed on the division of duties and responsibilities on the maintenance and testing of the FDS:

Installations of the FDS at the Protected Premises

Any installations of the FDS (such as the fire detectors, fire alarm panels) should be maintained in efficient working order at all times and should be inspected by a registered fire service installation contractor (RFSIC) at least once in every 12 months.

DTL connecting the Fire Signal Box at the Protected Premises to the Service Provider of the CFATS

As the testing of the DTL connecting the Fire Signal Box at protected premises to the SP of the CFATS did not require any technical competency, the DTL connection could be tested once every 2 weeks by **the owner or his agent** or at such time and interval as agreed by the Director of Fire Services.

According to the service agreement signed between FSD and SPs for the CFATS, SPs should provide a fixed telecommunication network to receive alarm signals from FDS at protected premises installed in accordance with the Code of Practice

for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment for transmitting the alarm signals to FSD in a prompt and reliable manner. Such network should be closely monitored by the SPs. Any fault in the network detected should be rectified by SPs soonest possible.

9. Provision of Sprinkler Inlet

Regarding the provision of sprinkler inlet, Members exchanged views and made a detailed discussion. The meeting concluded that it would suffice as long as the calculations made by the AP/FSIC met the requirement of FSD in terms of specific system requirements laid down in the LPC Rules for the provision of sprinkler inlet.

10. High Rise Sprinkler System

Members exchanged views and made a detailed discussion on the subject matter. The meeting concluded that the lowest zone; i.e., 0-45 m of a high-rise sprinkler system should not be treated as a non high-rise installation. To match the definition of high-rise system defined in clause 3.32 of BS EN 12845:2003, it should form part of a high-rise system and the performance requirements of high-rise system in particular FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2012 should be applicable.

11. Improvements to smoke extraction systems due to unacceptable result of hot smoke test

The requirements and irregularities requiring improvement to the smoke extraction system due to failure of hot smoke test had been fully elaborated in the last meeting, which also served as a reminder to the industry and trade. As there were no further enquiries by members in the meeting, Members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

12. Sprinkler System Pump Sets Arrangement for Non-High Rise Building

Members exchanged views and made a detailed discussion on the two scenarios proposed by FSICA. The meeting concluded that the proposed sprinkler system pump sets arrangements for non high-rise building were acceptable but due to different sprinkler tank capacities in existing buildings under the requirements of Cap 502 and 572, such arrangements would only apply to new buildings.

13 Survey report on “Red” colour cables

Members exchanged views and made a detailed discussion on the issue. The meeting concluded that when choosing colour for cable for fire detection system of a building, the AP/FSIC should consider if the proposed colour could be easily found in the market. If available, “red” cables should be adopted as it was preferred according to clause 3.6.6. The colour code for fire detection system should be consistently used for the entire building for new developments. To facilitate the consistent use of cable colour for fire detection system, building owner should be provided with a set of related cables colour code relating to fire service installations for reference and easy identification of different cables for future building works. It was also agreed that the above arrangements would be updated in the future revision of FSD CoP.

14 Measures to reduce the number of unwanted alarms

Members were informed that Since 2006 there were over 20,000 unwanted alarm cases each year. Should stakeholders of the building industry were entrusted by the building owners for measures to reduce the number of unwanted alarms in any premises, they were welcome to submit applications to FSD on the following possible measures: -

1. Based on the design of the fire detection system in respect of relevant standards, Codes and FSD Circular Letters, to re-arrange the locations of detectors;
2. Replacement of detectors, e.g. from smoke detectors to heat detectors in some areas which might easily cause false alarm such as plant rooms, pantry, etc;
3. Use of multi-sensor detectors instead of single-sensor detectors in accordance with the FSD Circular Letter No. 2/2010;
4. Disconnection of smoke detectors for automatic actuating devices from the direct line of the fire detection system; and
5. Installation of time related system in accordance with the FSD Circular Letter No. 4/2001.