

Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 3rd FSSAG Meeting (held on 16.12.2004)

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

It was agreed that fire detection system should be provided to strong rooms and safe deposit vaults located in basements not exceeding 230 m². For strong rooms and safe deposit vaults located in basements exceeding 230 m², either the fire detection system or the sprinkler system should be installed. FSD has no objection to the use of heat detectors for fire detection systems in strong rooms / safe deposit vaults and FSICs / APs could choose the suitable type of fire detection system at their own discretion. The proposed changes would be included in the impending FSI CoP amendment exercise.

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

A Checklist for Inspection Procedures for SPS was being prepared.

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

HKIE would submit revised design proposal to FSD.

4. Procedures for Proper Maintenance of Portable Fire Extinguishers

Contents of the Fire Protection Notice No. 11 would be updated in the new CoP. Advice on the selection of fire extinguishers would be prepared for the public's information.

5. Guidelines on VAC Control Systems

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

6. **Fire Protection Requirements in Construction Sites**

Comments from the Real Estates Development Association (REDA) were being awaited.

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

A guideline on the types of FSI and information to be included in the schematic drawings was issued to members, the FSICA & APs for comments. FSD Circular Letter would be prepared and the new arrangement would be put on trial for 6 months.

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

Amendments for CoP were being finalized and individual views not being adopted in the new CoP would be collated for further discussion.

9. **Full Load Test for Emergency Generators**

Members considered that loaders could be used for annual full load tests for emergency generators and FSICA was requested to collect members' views on the subject. Testing and maintenance requirements for emergency generators were uniformed for both private sector developments and Government developments. Condition of the emergency generators should be recorded in FS 251.

10. **Connection of Non-FSI Electrical Load to Emergency Generators**

10.1 FSD clarified that in principle FSD would not allow non-FSI connection to emergency generators.

10.2 A review was conducted by FSD recently and the provision of non-fire rated partitions made of expanded metal or wire mesh with lockable opening to separate the FSI emergency generator from other generator(s) housed in the same room was considered acceptable. Such room should be designed solely for accommodating emergency generators while the FSI emergency

generator and its associated switch gear must be completely separated from other generators for security purpose.

11. Consultancy Study of the Buildings Department relating to FSI Vs the Requirements of Barrier Free Access

A consultancy firm was engaged to undertake a review of the Design Manual – Barrier Free Access 1997 and consultation with the trade would be conducted by BD in due course.

12. Programmable Logic Control (PLC) Controller for FS Pumps

FSD considered the use of PLC controller for FS pumps not desirable due to (i) high risk of unavailability of parts and (ii) special techniques involved in conducting routine / emergency maintenance leading to long suspension of FSI maintenance. The current control system using hard wires was encouraged and PLCs should only be used in projects with prior approval from FSD.

13. Fireman's Lifts as FSI

FSD confirmed that fireman's lifts were considered as FSI and it would check if the test and examination reports for electrical passenger/freight/vehicle lifts issued by a registered lift engineer covered the FSD requirements of a fireman's lift before deciding whether certification by FSICs was required in FS 251 & FSI 501.

14. Indication Plates for Building Staircase

FSD clarified that the provision of numbering plates on each floor of the staircase enclosure to differentiate between different building staircases was not a mandatory requirement. Such provision was considered good practice as the indication would enhance the operational efficiency of FS personnel in an emergency.

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