

# **Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)**

## Matters Discussed in the 43<sup>rd</sup> FSSAG Meeting held on 26 February 2015

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

The 7<sup>th</sup> Sub-working Group (SWG) meeting on Emergency Lighting Systems for Licensed Premises was carried out on 15.12.2014 with the participation of two new ad hoc members from the Hong Kong Electrical Contractors' Association. Comments received from members of SWG on the updated draft PPA/104 & PPA/104(A) (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) would be discussed in the coming SWG meeting.

### **2. Provision of Indication Label for Manual Evacuation Switch**

Regarding the provision and location of the evacuation switch, it had been agreed among parties concerned that to facilitate conducting total evacuation, the evacuation switch should be placed in the control room according to the requirement of BS 5839. In case no fire control room was provided in the building, the evacuation switch should be installed by the side of the annunciator panel. If one fire control room was in control of several buildings, the number of evacuation switch provided should be equivalent to the number of buildings connected. Such requirements would apply to new buildings only after the issue of the relevant FSD Circular Letter. Since the issue had already come to a conclusion, the meeting agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

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

The draft of "Minimum Fire Resisting Cable Requirements for Fire Service Installations (11/2014 version)" had been issued to Members of the FSSAG for comment on 24.11.2014. Comments received were discussed in the 10<sup>th</sup> SWG meeting held on 30.1.2015. A draft FSD Circular Letter would be prepared accordingly and submitted to the management of FSD for deliberation. Members of the SWG also agreed that a grace period of 9 months should be allowed before the implementation of the proposed new FSD Circular Letter.

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

The draft FSD Circular Letter with case drawings and explanatory notes for V/AC Controls in typical food premises had to be further discussed in the coming Ventilation Installation Liaison Group (VILG) meetings with a view to incorporating the new requests from the Hong Kong Registered Ventilation Contractors Association (HKRVCA). As discussions on the issue would take some time, it was suggested to remove this item from the agenda for the time being until a new agenda item would be proposed once the revised documents had been endorsed by the VILG. The meeting agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

**5. Maintenance Inspection for Fire Detection Systems (DFS)**

A letter was issued by FSD on 17.11.2014 to inform all Class 1 RFSICs of the demarcation of duties and responsibilities for maintenance and testing of FDS as discussed in the previous meeting. As no further action was required for the issue, the meeting agreed to delete the item in the next meeting.

**6. BD CoP for Fire Safety in Buildings, 2011 B13 – Doors in Relation to Exits / C16 – Fire Rated Doors**

Regarding the provision of electrical locking devices at the inner side only or on both sides of the exit door, members discussed and exchanged views on the subject in detail, in particular on the way to strike the balance between fire safety and security. The meeting concluded that the issue would be further discussed in the next FSSAG meeting. Meanwhile, representatives of HKIE and FSICA would collate views of their members on the subject matter. Representatives of housing Department would gather more information on the issue, such as concrete proposals or specific cases for further discussion.

**7. Revised checklists as appended to “Codes of Practice for Minimum Service Installation and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installation and Equipment” (FSD CoP)**

The revised checklists were agreed by various liaison groups including FSSAG, FSD/AP Liaison Group and FSD/FSICA Liaison Group and would be issued to stakeholders by FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2015. It was agreed that this item would be deleted in the next meeting as a new agenda item for preparation of FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2015 had been created for discussion in this meeting.

**8. Revised Annex 1 “Fire Services Installations – Equipment List” of FSD Circular Letter No .1/2007 to be incorporated in FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2014**

The revised Equipment List was agreed by various liaison groups including FSSAG, FSD/AP Liaison Group and FSD/FSICA Liaison Group and it would be issued to stakeholders by FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2015. It was agreed that this item would be deleted in the next meeting as a new agenda item for preparation of FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2015 had been created for discussion in this meeting.

**9. Enhancement on Application procedure for Approval/Acceptance of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI) and other Products**

Members were informed that three Seminars on ‘Approval / Acceptance of Fire Service Installations and Equipment and other Products with Fire Safety Concerns’ had already been held in December 2014 with about 830 persons from the industries attended. In the final stage of the enhancement - Phase 5, a relevant circular letter and Fire Protection Notice No.15 for formal announcement would be launched in due course.

**10. Emergency Lighting System Checklist**

Members were informed that subsequent to the previous meeting, a sub-working group had been set up to review the emergency lighting system (ELS) as well as to draw up an ELS Checklist.

**11. Proposed Symbol for Novec 1230 Fixed Sprayer Units**

As agreed in previous meeting, a FSD Circular Letter would be drafted to cover all clean fire extinguishing agents including the new agent “Novec 1230” and other existing agents. Thus, Paragraph 8 of Part VIII of FSD Circular Letter No. 4/96 would be superseded by this new Circular Letter. Besides, it was observed that some approved units were capable of being used in the maximum protection volume exceeding 42m<sup>3</sup> up to 55m<sup>3</sup>. Thus, it was necessary to further study whether there should be a fixed maximum protection volume for fixed sprayer units and their usage demarcation in comparing with automatic fixed installation using other than water, e.g. FM200 total gas flooding system actuated by fire detection

system.

**12. FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2015 “Documents Required for Application for Compliance Inspection on Fire Service Installations”**

as the revised testing and commissioning (T&C) checklists and Equipment List were agreed by various liaison groups, a new FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2015 was being drafted to summarize that the following documents would be required to be submitted for application for compliance inspection on fire service installations and equipment:

- (a) Form FSI/501
- (b) Form FSI/314 (submission of as-built FSI plans)
- (c) T&C checklists for various FSIs (7 nos. in total)
- (d) Fire Service Installations – Equipment List

This Circular Letter would take effect from 3 months after the issued date.

**13. Requirements for Calibration and Tamper-proof for Testing Instruments Used for Compliance Inspections**

Members were informed that with the assistance of FSICA, three sub-working group meetings had been conducted in which the following testing instruments used for compliance inspections were considered technically and practically feasible to be calibrated and equipped with tamper-proofing measures:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Fire Service Installations</b>	<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Measuring Parameter</b>	<b>Accuracy</b>	<b>Period of Calibration</b>
1	All fire service installations other than smoke extraction	Multi-meter	Polarity & circuit continuity (electrical characteristics)	±5%	1 year
2	system (SES) and staircase pressurization system (SPS)	Pressure gauge	Water Pressure		3 year

3	SPS	Push-pull gauge	Force required for opening the door	±2% (as specified in FSD CoP)	Not more than 3 months prior to the date of test (as specified in FSD CoP)
4	SES and SPS	Anemometer	Air-velocity		
5		Other non-simple devices	N/A		

**14. Implementation of BS 5839: 2013 “Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems for Buildings – Part 1: Code of Practice for Design, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Systems in Non-domestic Premises”**

Members were informed that the current adopted acceptance standard for fire detection and fire alarm systems was BS 5839-1: 2002 + A2 2008 with local modifications as stipulated in FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2009. Subsequent to the issue of BS 5839-1 2013, a review on the requirements for fire detection and fire alarm systems by implementing this new standard in Hong Kong should be considered. In this regard, the meeting agreed to establish a sub-working group. Through this exercise, the standard requirement of FSI covered by BS 5839 could be updated and where applicable could become local standard. In addition, the design of relevant installations could be studied and reviewed and to find out ways to minimize false alarms.

**15. API for "Annual Inspection of Fire Service Installations & Ventilation Systems"**

Members were informed that FSD had launched an API on 17.2.2015 to publicize the statutory requirements to conduct annual inspections of both Fire Service Installations and the specific devices of the Ventilation Systems installed in any building and licensed premises at least once every 12 months. In this regard, a poster had also been made which would be uploaded onto the FSD Web-site.

**16. Limitation of False Alarms**

Members were informed that according to the statistics of the Department, most of the fire alarms received were false alarms. In order to find out the causes of increasing fire alarms and ways to minimize false alarms for better deployment of FSD’s resources, the Department had conducted a study on the subject matter. The

study and the findings were presented in the meeting.

#### **17. Remote indicating lamp plate for detectors**

Members exchanged views and discussed the subject matter in detail. The meeting concluded that as the requirement of different colour for the graphic pattern and the text description was previously agreed in the FSSAG meeting after consulting FSD operational staff, there was no strong ground to change the colour code. In the circumstances, the requirement laid down in FSD circular letter No 1/2009 should be strictly followed. Nevertheless, as discussed and agreed in paragraph 14 above, subsequent to the issue of BS 5839-1 2013 a review would be conducted by the Department on the updated requirements and new standard for FSI. Such being the case, the subject matter would be further discussed in the sub-working group meeting set up under paragraph 14. Prior to further development, the requirement in FSD circular letter No 1/2009 remained status quo.

#### **18. Location of Manual Call Point**

Members exchanged views and discussed the subject matter in detail. The Chairperson concluded that due to the complexities and technicalities involved in the provision of manual call point at ground storey, the issue would be discussed further in the sub-working group meeting set up under paragraph 14 above. Meanwhile, the design requirement of manual call point should comply with FSD CoP 2012 and BS 5839 and manual call point should be provided at other area of ground storey including those individual rooms with doors to open air.