

**Brief Notes of Meeting 1/2013-15**  
**Advisory Committee under Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance Cap 572**  
**(25 March 2013)**

**Matters Discussed**

**1. Introduction to Advisory Committee (AC)**

An introduction to the AC, including the terms of reference, composition and meeting guidelines, was made in the meeting. Furthermore, members were reminded to make full disclosure of interests when they considered that they might have a potential conflict of interests in the case or issue considered by the AC.

**2. Term of Office**

As in some occasions, it might take over two years to examine alternative measures/projects proposed by owners/occupiers of domestic or composite buildings, FSD would consider the suggestion of setting the term of office to three years.

**[Post-meeting notes:** FSD has examined the suggestion of setting the term of office of FSD AC to three years. Having made reference to other Advisory and Statutory Bodies with Government appointed members, it is considered that the existing arrangement is appropriate.]

**3. Cases to be Referred to the AC**

According to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, Cap 572 (the Ordinance), the AC was established to give advice and assistance to the relevant enforcement authority on the alternative fire safety measures proposed by owners of domestic or composite buildings. The AC would not proactively propose and discuss alternative measures in place of those specified by the enforcement authorities.

The Ordinance had commenced operation since 1.7.2007. Fire services personnel had inspected many targeted buildings, explained the requirements stipulated under the Ordinance for the improvement of fire service installation or equipment (FSI) to building owners and issued fire safety directions. It was anticipated that there would be difficult cases which required advice from AC members later.

#### **4. Alternative Fire Safety Measures**

Full compliance of the fire safety requirements was required in order to provide better protection from the risk of fire for occupants and users of, and visitors to buildings. However, if there were insurmountable difficulties for the owners in complying with the prescriptive fire safety requirements due to structural or spatial constraints, FSD would adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling such cases. In past years, owners of old buildings had submitted alternative fire safety measures to FSD for consideration.

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