

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 20 March 2008 (Thursday)
Time : 1500 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. Proposed New Arrangements for the Submission of Fire Service Installation Drawings for New Development

Subsequent to the 2nd Working Group Meeting on 12.11.2007, an informal meeting with the FSICA and the HKIE (BS Division) was conducted on 25.1.2008. At the meeting, the FSICA representatives had showed support for the Help Desk service, whereas HKIE (BS Division) had no strong view on the new arrangement. A draft FSD Circular Letter would be circulated to the members of Working Group for comments before its promulgation.

2. Fire Protection Measures in Construction Sites of Super Highrise Buildings

The revised draft of FSD Circular Letter incorporating comments from the members of the Joint Liaison Group had been fine-tuned and re-circulated for the group members' further preview.

3. Graphical Symbol Exit Signs

A draft FSD Circular Letter incorporating the details of FSD Circular Letter 2/2000 and promulgating the implementation of graphical symbol exit signs was under consideration.

4. Uncollected General Building Plans in FSD

The proposed amendments to "Practice Note for Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers 30" (PNAP 30) had been conveyed to the Buildings Department (BD) for consideration. Meanwhile, their response was still awaiting.

5. Inspection Standard and Arrangement for Sprinkler Installation before Completion of False Ceiling for Complying with LPC Rules

The simulation result revealed that a free hanging sprinkler head (i.e. sprinkler head installed 450mm away from the backing ceiling) would react slower than that of a compliant sprinkler head and the fire size required to activate the sprinkler head would be much larger. Later, a meeting with FSICA and APs would be called for to share the related technical figures.

6. Smoke Extraction System in Basement Carpark

The exemption for an independent smoke extraction system for plant room at the basement carpark could only be considered on a case by case basis. Nevertheless, FSD would study the information provided by APs and explore the feasibility of preparing some guidelines in this regard.

7. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

The consultation period of “The Implementation of Third Part Fire Safety Certification by Introducing a Registered Fire Engineers Scheme in Hong Kong” had expired on 2.1.2008. 9 briefing sessions had been conducted to the representatives from various trades such as food business, hotel business, karaoke establishments, places of entertainment, property management companies etc. At the end of the consultation period, responses from various government bureaux/departments, professional institutions and trade associations had been received. FSD thanked for the valuable comments from the HKIA, HKIE and HKIS in this regard.

Based on the proposals and the views collated during the consultation period, FSD would conduct a public engagement exercise enlisting relevant stakeholders to work out the details for taking the scheme forward.

8. Sounder Base for Fire Detection System in Hotels/Guesthouses and Student Hostels

At the last meeting of Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG), members had been invited to solicit views from their respective organizations on the required standard/specification of sounder base. The FSSAG would consolidate the views and comments for further discussion at a later stage.

9. Maintenance of Building FSI

APs’ assistance was solicited to remind the FSI contractors employed for their projects that in accordance with the FSD Circular Letter 1/99 and 4/99, FSI contractors should notify FSD by using the prescribed form in advance of any shutdown of FSIs overnight or over 24 hours, and they should also implement temporary fire safety measures to enhance fire safety if circumstances warranted.

It was noted that in most cases, the project FSI contractors had no difficulty in following the guidelines to notify FSD in advance of the shutdown of FSIs. However, for those buildings carrying out internal fitting-out works after the issuance of occupation permits, and for those shopping arcades with part of shops yet leased, the property management might not be aware of such requirement, particularly before appointing new FSI contractor for annual inspection.

FSD would convey / had conveyed the same to the H.K. Association of FSI Contractors and the H.K. Association of Property Management Companies. On the other side, the FSI Task Force of FSD would take enforcement action to help regulate the situation.

END