

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 18 December 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

The meeting noted to have no significant problem after implementation of the “Help Desk” service.

2. Uncollected General Building Plans in FSD

Comments on the proposed amendment to Appendix B of “Practice Note for Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers 30” (PNAP 30) from the industry had been sought and were under study by BD.

3. Smoke Extraction System in Basement Carpark

A list of consideration factors for processing of applications for exemption of smoke extraction system for plant rooms in deep basement carpark had been drawn up. The list was for general reference only and applications would be processed on a case by case basis.

4. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

Two forums on the third party fire safety certification in Hong Kong organized specifically for FSICs were successfully held on 12.9.2008 and 18.9.2008 at the Lecture Hall of the Science Museum with the attendance of 122 and 75 FSICs respectively. During the forum, views were exchanged between the speakers and the FSICs in the following areas:-

- (a) Overseas experience of third party involvement in Government projects
- (b) Controlling of possible conflict of interest/malpractice of RFE
- (c) Competence of RFE in carrying out fire safety certification
- (d) Division of responsibilities in fire safety certification between RFE and FSICs
- (e) Top-up course/Training for contractors to acquire professional knowledge for registration as RFE
- (f) Maintenance of consistent standard in fire safety certification carried out by RFE

- (g) Categorizing the work of RFE into different categories according to the nature of work

In response to HKIE's suggestion that professionals of disciplines other than fire should also be allowed to undertake part of the third party fire safety certification work, a meeting between Building Services Discipline of HKIE and FSD was held on 12.11.2008. During the discussion, views on categorizing the proposed fire safety certification work for different classes of RFE and the feasibility of inclusion of RPE(BSS) practicing in fire safety field for registration as RFE were exchanged. For the purpose of seeking comments on the way forward from their members, BS Discipline would convene an in-house forum with their members and representative of FSD would be invited to conduct a briefing on the proposed RFE Scheme. The forum was tentatively scheduled in the first quarter of 2009.

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

No comment on the draft FSD Circular letter was received from FSSAG members. The letter would be issued after the circular letter on the review of BS 5839-1: 2002 Fire Detection & Fire Alarm Systems for Buildings had been issued.

6. Classification of Ordinary Hazard

An ad hoc meeting with members of FSSAG including representatives from HKIE, IFE(HK), FSICA, FSD & HD was held on 13.10.2008 to discuss the proposed change of classification of hazard group of sprinkler system for restaurants from OH I to OH III. At the meeting, the representatives had reservations on the proposal as it would be impracticable to change the sprinkler system in existing buildings including HA properties. Furthermore, the industry might have great resistance if the proposal had no strong justifications. Besides, based on the existing licensing requirements for restaurants, fire safety requirements had already been set out according to fire potential classifications of restaurants. In other words, fire safety measures for restaurants actually had already been materially enhanced in addition to the building FSIs. It was also agreed at the FSSAG meeting held on 9.12.2008 that the change of hazard group of sprinkler system for restaurants was not supported. Therefore no further change would be imposed on the sprinkler system hazard group for restaurants.

7. Remote Indicating Lamp Plate

Two comments were received from AP representatives. In essence, one raised the concern that the red and green colour contrast might not be easily differentiated by people with poor colour perception. As the lamp plate was mainly designed for firefighters to identify the location of actuated smoke/heat detectors inside lockable rooms, the concern of colour contrast should not be an issue for firefighters. The other comment was to remind that the height of

English letters and Chinese characters should not be less than 10mm and 15mm respectively or should follow the latest specifications issued by the Director of Fire Services from time to time. Such comment was relayed to FSSAG during the meeting held on 9.12.2008. The design would be refined to incorporate those plates for ceiling and floor voids in addition to that for lockable rooms.

11. Briefing Session on One-stop Shop

The briefing session on the establishment of a One-Stop Centre for Warehouse Construction Permit (OSC) (previously named as One-Stop Shop) was conducted on 15 October 2008 collaboratively by the EU, BD and FSD with the attendance of major stakeholders such as architects, FSI contractors, authorised persons etc. who neither showed support for nor indicated their disapproval of the new initiative proposed by the EU.

The OSC officially rolled out on 1.12.2008. For projects submitted under the OSC administered by the EU, the FSD will take 35 days instead of 40 for normal projects to process the building plan and a Fire Services Certificate (FS 172) will be issued within 5 working days instead of 7 for normal projects. For details of the OSC and application procedures, one could visit EU's website.

END