

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 17 December 2009 (Thursday)
Time : 1500 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

The revised proposal of the Scheme was being fine-tuned to incorporate the comments/suggestions from the stakeholders. Upon finalization of the proposal, another round of consultation would be launched.

2. Inspection of Ventilating Systems in New Buildings

In order to assess the standard of installation of ventilating systems in new buildings, the BD requested the assistance of the Ventilation Division of the FSD to carry out joint BD-FSD inspections. The inspections would be arranged such that they would not affect the occupation permit inspections. It was given to understand that the BD had already informed AP through a recent BD-AP liaison meeting. Details of inspection procedures were being worked out between BD and FSD.

The Ventilation Division of FSD was responsible for annual inspection of ventilating systems of buildings. It was not empowered to inspect the ventilating systems in new buildings and could only act on the request from BD.

3. Review of Codes of Practice (CoP)

The *CoP for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment (July 2005 version)* had been put into force since 16.12.2005 and it was timely to have a review so as to incorporate, inter alia, various provisions of fire service requirements promulgated in the existing Circular Letters and any other requirements applicable to prevailing situations. Internal views were being sought and AP's opinions were also welcomed to facilitate the review. Letter would be sent to HKIE,

HKIA, HKIS, FSICA, and AAP for their input. Memo would also be sent to BD, ArchSD and HD for their comments. The working group would arrange consultation with all the stakeholders after collecting and consolidating the inputs/comments from the parties concerned.

4. Floor Numbering

BD had convened a meeting with representatives of the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong, the HK Institution of Engineers, the HK Institute of Surveyors, the HK Institute of Architects, the Association of Architectural Practices, LandsD, HD and ArchSD on 11.12.2009. Attendees generally agreed that extensive skipping of floor numbers should be refrained. Any further comments or feedback on the issue should be forwarded to BD for consolidation and follow up action.

5. One Stop Centre for Warehouse Construction Permits

The time required for issuance of post-construction permit after compliance check would be shortened by one day. The total time now required would be reduced from (14+5) to (14+4) days. The relevant information would be uploaded to the FSD homepage.

6. Building Plan Submission regarding A&A Works

At present there was no mechanism to update FSD for the latest building plans after submission of A&A works by AP. After discussions and exchange of views, it was opined that BD was in a better position to inform FSD upon completion of the A&A works concerned. FSD would approach BD for their assistance.

7. Automatic Sprinkler Installations

Members were reminded to observe FSD Circular Letter 3/2006 when making submissions of building plan with the provision of automatic sprinkler installations. All clauses stipulated in the Loss Prevention Council Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations incorporating BS EN 12845:2003 had to be followed.

8. Revitalisation of Heritage Buildings

The Steering Committee for consultancy study on the Building Design Guidelines for Adaptive Re-use of Heritage Buildings had a meeting on 16.12.2009. At the meeting, the consultant presented the draft guidelines for adaptive re-use of and alteration and addition works to heritage buildings in compliance with the building safety requirements of the Buildings Ordinance. A consultation meeting would be held at 1430 hours on 18.1.2010 at the Lecture Hall of the Hong Kong Museum of History, Tsim Sha Tsui East. The Consultant would present the Draft Guidelines, share their ideas and seek comments on the guidelines. Interested members were most welcome to attend.

9. AP Correspondence List

It was understood that FSD did not maintain a full correspondence list of AP. Members would consider requesting BD to provide FSD with an updated correspondence list of AP registered under BD regularly.

10. Guidelines for Exemption

After lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed that it was not easy to list out all exemptions under fire engineering approach. Each case had to be considered on its own merits. Otherwise, it would become a prescriptive code. Should AP require clarifications on exemption items, they could contact NP Division of FSD if necessary.

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