

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 16 June 2011 (Thursday)
Time : 1500 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

After further discussion between SB and FSD on the way forward of the RFE Scheme, it was agreed that the FSD would conduct a 2nd round consultation to the trade. The revised proposed scheme would include the abolishing the requirement for applicants to be Corporate Member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (MHKIE) to register as RFE, categorizing RFE into RFE (Risk Assessment), RFE (Fire Service Installation) and RFE (Ventilation) according to their scopes of work.

In developing details of the scheme, FSD had taken into account of other areas of concern raised by stakeholders, like provision of professional liability insurance, putting in place measures to prevent malpractice or conflict of interest and protecting the interests of existing practitioners. It was expected that the 2nd round consultation would start off in July/August 2011.

2. Inspection of Ventilating Systems in New Buildings

Up to end of May 2011, FSD had conducted inspection of fire dampers in a total of 16 new buildings which included the residential, commercial, industrial and institutional categories. 11 follow-up inspections were carried out and follow-up inspections for two new buildings had yet to be arranged. Five out of the 16 inspected buildings (i.e. about 31%) had serious fire damper defects e.g. incomplete installation and incorrect installation methods. The fire dampers of the remaining 11 buildings were with minor defects and they were rectified shortly afterwards.

The attitude of the AP/contractors towards the scheme remained positive. The scheme would continue for a few more months and BD

would review its effectiveness before deciding the way forward.

3. Review of Codes of Practice (CoP)

The 2nd round consultation had been completed and all stakeholders were invited to discuss/elaborate their comments individually. Only two stakeholders, HKIA and FSICA, had expressed their initiative to have meeting on 19.5.2011 and 17.5.2011 respectively.

After meeting with the stakeholders, the FSI Codes were being translated by the Official Languages Section. It was expected to be completed by end of July.

Although other comments would be left for the next revision exercise, two FSD Circular Letters would be issued to clarify (i) Requirements for visual fire alarms under the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008; and (ii) Specifications for automatic sprinkler system, i.e. local application of the LPC Rules incorporating BS EN 12845:2003.

4. BD's Code of Practice for Fire Safety Design for Buildings

BD would upload the new Fire Safety Code to its website once finalized and issue a PNAP announcing its effective date. Similar to the approach for the implementation of the MOE Code 1996, for buildings or building works which were carried out or for which consent to commencement had been given on or before the effective date, the current edition of the MOE, MOA and FRC Codes might be used. Simultaneous use of both new and old codes in a single project would not be accepted.

5. Local Application of the LPC Rules Incorporating BS EN 12845

After discussing the captioned issue in the last meeting, comments from stakeholders were received. Having discussed with respective stakeholders, the proposal was revised as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Clause/Para./ Page</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Replaced by</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1	Clause 10.6.2.2 Page 60	Positive head In positive head conditions, the diameter of the suction pipe shall be	Positive head In positive head conditions, the diameter of the suction pipe shall be no less than 65mm.	Follow local practice according to the LPC Rules BS 5306 : Part

		no less than 65mm. Furthermore, the diameter shall be such that a velocity of 1.8 m/s is not exceeded when the pump is operating at maximum demand flow.	Furthermore, the diameter shall be such that a velocity of 1.8 m/s is not exceeded when the pump is operating at maximum demand flow. The equivalent length of the suction pipe and fittings shall be not more than 30m to avoid air locks.	2 : 1990
2	Clause 10.6.2.3 Page 60	Suction lift In suction lift conditions, the diameter of the suction pipe shall be no less than 80 mm. Furthermore, the diameter shall be such that a velocity of 1.5 m/s is not exceeded when the pump is operating at maximum demand flow.	Suction lift In suction lift conditions, the diameter of the suction pipe shall be no less than 80 mm. Furthermore, the diameter shall be such that a velocity of 1.5 m/s is not exceeded when the pump is operating at maximum demand flow. The equivalent length of the suction pipe and fittings shall be not more than 30m to avoid air locks.	Follow local practice according to of LPC Rules BS 5306 : Part 2 : 1990
3	Annex E Clause E.2.1 Page 149	Hazard group High rise sprinkler systems shall comply with the requirements for Ordinary Hazard Group III protection.	Hazard Group High rise sprinkler systems shall comply with the requirements according to Clause 6 (Classification of occupancies and fire hazards).	Follow local practice according to FSD Circular Letter No. 2/94
4.	New Clause 10.10		Intermediate Booster Pump In all buildings where the height between the topmost sprinkler heads and the lowest sprinkler inlet is in excess of 60m, the flow and pressure according to the Rules shall be maintained by intermediate booster pumps. Such design and requirement should be in accordance with the intermediate booster pump of FH/HR system stipulated in the FSI Code.	To follow similar requirements in FH/HR systems as stated in the FSI Code

Item 4 about the requirement of intermediate booster pumps was added.

6. Requirements, Acceptance Criteria and Specific Locations of Emergency Vehicular Access (EVA) where Paving Blocks are Acceptable to FSD

With the enactment of the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2004 on 31.12.2004, the new Regulation 41D of the Building (Planning) Regulations required the provision of EVA to all new buildings. According to the “Code of Practice for Means of Access for Firefighting and Rescue” (the MOA Code), the EVA that was not in the form of a carriageway should be hard-paved and be capable of withstanding a gross weight of 30,000 kg for safe operation of a fire appliance. To fulfill these two criteria, the road should be constructed and paved with concrete cement or asphalt, same as the standard of the Highways Department. In case of a block-paved road, it would materially hamper the fire-fighting and rescue operations of the FSD and was unacceptable from Fire Services point of view.

In general, paving blocks should not be applied on a designated EVA. FSD would consider the EVA arrangement of individual projects on a case by case basis.

7. Inclusion of Enhanced FSI Deviated from MOA Requirements to Fire Services Certificate (FS 161)

For cases which enhanced fire safety measures were provided to compensate for the non-provision or deficiency of MOA, BD would require the APs to provide a written confirmation issued by the FSD certifying that the enhanced FSI was found satisfactory. While issuing a FS 161 to the AP, FSD would send BD a memo to confirm that the enhanced FSI was acceptable.

8. Design of a Fireman’s Lift and Firefighting and Rescue Stairway

The requirement of connecting a fireman’s lift to a stairway directly was shown in the diagrams on pages 27 to 30 of the MOA Code.

9. Standardization of Floor Numbering

According to the PNAP ADV-3 on “Standardization of Floor Numbering” promulgated by BD, all floors of a building should be assigned with floor numbers in a logical and consecutive numerical series except minor changes to the system, such as omission of floor

numbers “4”, “13” and those ending with a “4” due to the long established local practice and custom in floor numbering for buildings in Hong Kong.

FSD would proffer its comment on the floor nomenclature to BD in case it would materially hamper their operational efficiency. BD would then advise the applicant of FSD’s comments.

10. Common Hose Reel (HR) System for 3-storey Houses in a Scheduled Development Area

The New Projects Division of FSD would consider AP’s proposal for provision of a centralized or an individual HR system for the 3-storey houses at a development on its individual merits.

END